

Wednesday, May 4, 1949

# JTA Daily News Bulletin

Published by JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

## U.S. POLITICAL COMMITTEE BEGINS CONSIDERATION OF ISRAELI APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

LAKE SUCCESS, May 3. (JTA) -- The 58-nation U.N. Ad Hoc Political Committee began formal debate today on Israel's application for admission after Gen. Carlos Romulo of the Philippines, the chairman, ruled down all Arab objections. The Committee will resume the discussion tomorrow morning.

A formal proposal by Dr. Charles Malik of the Lebanon called for postponement of action on the application until Israel accepted the principle of the internationalization of Jerusalem and the voluntary return of Arab refugees.

Argentina submitted a formal proposal inviting the Vatican to present its formula for the protection of Holy Places in Palestine. However, the Argentine delegate repeatedly underscored the fact that he does not interpose any "condition" for the admission of Israel which he says his delegation "sympathetically" supports.

Warren R. Austin, United States delegate, was instrumental in bringing about the Committee's discussion of the membership bid. In the face of repeated Arab attempts to postpone, adjourn and scuttle the application, Austin rose with a proposal for a quick vote, which almost brought about a vote then and there and caused the Arabs to drop their attempts to block discussion. Canada and China--both members of the Security Council--upheld the validity of the Council's recommendation that Israel be accepted as a member of the U.N.

## ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ISSUES MANIFESTO MARKING FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE TODAY

TEL AVIV, May 3. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government today issued a special proclamation on the occasion of the celebration of the first anniversary of Israeli statehood, which will be marked tomorrow. The proclamation recounts the achievements of the state of Israel during its first year of existence--its immigration record, the creation of a government and the achievement of recognition by more than 50 nations, including the major powers.

Preparations for local celebrations are proceeding at top speed throughout the country, with all political groups and national institutions planning to participate. The political rallies will be all-party affairs.

Paying homage to the Israeli men and women who died in the battle to achieve and maintain statehood, the government manifesto calls on the people of the Jewish state to "unite to receive our returning brethren. Let us conduct ourselves in our day-to-day lives as befits a nation engaged in the holy work of gathering in its exiles," it adds.

To the Jews of the entire world "whose hearts turned to Zion and who helped us achieve freedom, we send forth a message of good tidings," the proclamation declares. "Their efforts have not been in vain--they have borne a rich fruit." It concludes with a plea for unity in the "mighty effort of reconstruction."

JES MARK FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S STATEHOOD; WEIZMANN GREETIS ISRAEL FROM N.Y.

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of Israel, who is now in New York, today issued a message of greetings to the Israeli Government, to its armed forces, and to all the citizens of his nation on the occasion of the first anniversary of Israel's independence which is to be observed tomorrow in the Jewish state, the United States, and by Jewish communities throughout the world.

A message received today by President Weizmann from Prime Minister David Ben Gurion in Tel Aviv reads: "On behalf of the government, I send you congratulations on Independence Day. May you be granted length of days to see the state gather in the cities and cause the wastes to flourish again, and may we achieve peace with our neighbors."

The text of the message from Dr. Weizmann to the government, armed forces, and people of Israel reads:

"On the anniversary of Israel's independence and the conclusion of the first year of national freedom, I send my greetings to the government, the armed forces and all citizens of Israel, including the thousands of immigrants reaching our shores from all countries of the Dispersion.

"I am writing these words from afar, having been detained here at the urgent request of the directors of the United Jewish Appeal. This fact in itself symbolizes the special circumstances of our life. At this very hour of celebration when our eyes are fixed on past accomplishments and victories, it is incumbent upon us to give attention to our anxieties for the future. The moment has come to devote ourselves to unswerving efforts for the absorption of immigration and the economic consolidation of our state.

"At this very time our government is engaged in an earnest effort to establish relations of peace with the neighboring states, and to secure the completion of our international recognition. The events of the passing year have been great and impressive, but no less vast are the tasks which await us in the immediate future. May the first year of Israel's independence radiate its inspiration upon all the coming years of freedom that are to be Israel's destiny in future years."

Efforts of American Jewry in Behalf of Israel Lauded by Consul-General

Arthur Lourie, Israeli Consul-General in New York, in an Independence Day statement, emphasized that the Israeli Government and the people of Israel "will not forget the support" extended to them by the Jewish community of the United States "at a time when on the field of battle Israel stood alone, surrounded by enemies seeking to destroy her."

Emphasizing that Israel is now confronted "with new tasks and a great challenge," the statement said: "With the assistance of American Jewry we are confident that we shall meet this challenge and shall succeed in settling and rehabilitating the many hundreds of thousands of our brethren from Europe and the Middle East, who are today streaming to the shores of Israel."

Tomorrow afternoon, President Weizmann will address a great outdoor meeting at the Madison Square Park in New York arranged by the American Zionist Emergency Council to mark Israel's first anniversary of independence. Other speakers will include Dr. Isaac Herzog, Chief Rabbi of Israel; Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York City; Claude Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the Emergency Council and Dr. Emanuel Neumann, President of the Zionist Organization of America. In the evening a celebration will

take place at Carnegie Hall, highlighted by a New York Philharmonic Symphony concert. Aubrey S. Eban, Israeli representative to the U.N., will be one of the principal speakers at the Carnegie Hall celebration.

#### President Weizmann Is Dinner Host to 30 Latin American Diplomats

President Weizmann was host last night to 30 Latin American diplomats at a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel marking the recognition of Israel by 20 Latin American countries. Dr. Weizmann expressed the gratitude of the people of Israel for the warm and consistent support given their nation by the Latin American countries. He pledged that the Jewish state will try "to live up to your expectations and to the great message which came out of Israel in the past." Most of the countries were represented by the heads of their U.N. delegations.

The Israeli President yesterday informed Mayor O'Dwyer that he will be unable to accept an invitation to an official reception in his honor at City Hall "because my physician has sharply limited my public appearances during my visit to the United States." However, Dr. Weizmann added that he was looking forward to meeting the Mayor tomorrow afternoon at the Madison Square Park rally.

In a statement reviewing Israel's achievements during the past twelve months, Eban declared that in seeking admission to the United Nations "Israel hopes to secure a status indispensable to the conclusion of peace with its neighbors. Israel's efforts on the international scene will always be devoted to peace and the ideals of universalism and brotherhood bequeathed to the world by Israel's prophets in ancient times," he concluded.

#### NEW PROBLEMS STILL FACING ISRAEL ON FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF STATEHOOD, AMBASSADOR SAYS

WASHINGTON, May 3. (JTA) -- Israeli Ambassador Elisha Elath today issued the following statement in connection with the first anniversary of the state of Israel:

"The first anniversary of the proclamation of the state of Israel finds Israel victorious in its war for independence. For the people of Israel during that year there were no alternatives. It was a grim battle for the practical and heroic realization of a 2,000 year old ideal. The victories of war, however, are not sufficient to establish firmly a strong and independent state. What we seek now is peace with our neighbors and formal admission into the family of nations. The problems we are confronted with today are as great and possibly greater than those we faced a year ago. The ingathering of the exiles imposes upon us a challenge which we must meet if we are to bring about the full discharge of our moral obligation to world Jewry. The rate of immigration rises with each new day and the people of Israel are determined that the newcomers shall have all the privileges of every citizen of the state: the right to find their places in the life and activities of the country.

"During the past year we have had the unqualified support of Jews all over the world and particularly of the Jews of the United States. In the tasks that face us this sympathy and support must continue to grow so that Israel in years ahead may be privileged to play its part in world affairs and to lend its stature and dignity to Jews everywhere. On this historic day, the 5th day of Iyar, 5709, May, 4, 1949, I send to the American Jewish community the greetings of the Government and people of Israel and the hope that further solid links will be forged between this great democracy and the state of Israel."

DR. RYAN EXPLAINS ISRAELI POINT OF VIEW IN TWO-HOUR PARLEY WITH U.N. CONCILIATION BODY

LAUSANNE, May 3. (JTA) -- The U.N. Conciliation Commission today met with Dr. Ryan alone in a formal session. The head of the Israeli delegation addressed the Commission for almost two hours, in response to its request for a full statement on Israel's views of the Palestine problems. In the light of his statement, the Commission is now preparing the agenda in an effort to bring together the Israeli and Arab viewpoints.

During the afternoon, the subcommittee on Jerusalem heard first the Egyptians and then the Transjordanians on the subject of internationalizing Jerusalem. Nothing definite emerged from the first exchange, it was learned, and talks will continue throughout the week. The Egyptians so far demand full internationalization, while Transjordan is much less specific and has left the door open for an alternative solution.

ISRAELI KNESSETH APPROVES THREE-MONTH BUDGET; USHERS IN INDEPENDENCE DAY

TEL AVIV, May 3. (JTA) -- The Israeli Knesseth today approved a \$23,000,000 budget for April, May and June. It covers all national expenses except security and defense needs. A full annual budget for next year is expected to be submitted to the parliament some time this month.

Later in the evening, the Knesseth ushered in Israeli Independence Day with a 15-minute celebration. Josef Sprinzak, Speaker of the Knesseth and Acting President of Israel in the absence of Dr. Weizmann, read a message to the government and people of Israel from Dr. Weizmann, who is now in New York. Then Sprinzak called on the members of the parliament to go out into the towns and villages of the land and join the populace in a celebration of Independence Day, which has been set aside as a holiday.

BLAUSTEIN CALLS FOR INDUSTRIAL AID AND GOVERNMENT LOANS TO JEWISH STATE

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- Present-day Israel is teeming with life, assurance and hope while at the same time, as is to be expected, it is confronted with gigantic tasks of reconstruction, rehabilitation and other problems, declared Jacob Blaustein, president of the American Jewish Committee, on his return here today from an intensive survey of Israel.

Emphasizing that the major problems facing Israel are those of immigration, housing and employment of new settlers, as well as the war against inflation, Blaustein said: "The Israeli Government is fully aware of these problems and is considering a number of projects aimed at overcoming them, and believes it will. However, the task of adjustment in Israel cannot be accomplished simply from within. In addition to voluntary private contributions from the United States and other countries, such as through the United Jewish Appeal, help must come in the form of additional foreign governmental loans, and particularly through the creation of new private enterprises by foreign industrialists utilizing the most modern scientific resources available."

Blaustein headed a five-man delegation which visited Israel at the invitation of Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion. The delegates had thorough conferences with the Israeli Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet and with representatives of labor and industry. They also had several meetings with U.S. Ambassador James G. McDonald and with Mark Etridge, U.S. member of the United Nations Conciliation Commission. The delegation included Irving M. Engel, chairman of the A.J.C. executive committee; Dr. John Slawson, executive vice-president; Dr. Simon Segal of the New York office and Zachariah Shuster of the Paris office.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE REPORTS ON SUPPRESSION OF JUDAISM IN "IRON CURTAIN" LANDS

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- Charges that "there exists a common pattern of suppression of all independent religious, cultural and communal activities" in the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe were today made by the American Jewish Committee in a statement issued here. The A.J.C. also stated that the "attack hits Catholic, Protestant and Greek Orthodox, as well as Jewish, religious communities, and their cultural and welfare organizations."

Churches and synagogues may still conduct services, the Committee statement said, "but religious education is being abolished" and "cultural and welfare activities are being pre-empted by the state." It added that "religious groups are required to promote Communist policies; their leaders are chosen by the Communist High command."

Independent Jewish organizations in all satellite countries were closed down or forced to disband "voluntarily," the A.J.C. charged. It added, "Jewish schools were taken over by the state, usually with promises that the Yiddish or Hebrew language of instruction would be preserved. Subsequently, the minority language was abolished, the teaching of Jewish history and literature discontinued or reduced to a minimum, and Communist indoctrination made the main purpose of education. Jewish welfare institutions, hospitals, orphanages, etc., were 'nationalized.' Jewish relief agencies, which had contributed great amounts of money for rehabilitation, were closed down. Many Jewish religious and civic leaders were jailed or forced into exile."

Reveals Situation in Rumania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia

In Rumania, the American Jewish Committee report stated, the "Union of Rumanian Jews was forced to merge with a left-wing splinter group, and after several months to 'dissolve' voluntarily." The Federation of Jewish Religious Communities was taken over, without the benefit of an election, by a new, pro-Communist leadership. Sixty-nine Jewish elementary schools and 23 Jewish high schools, with a total of 13,900 pupils, were 'nationalized' in the summer of 1948. Resistance against the nationalization of the schools was considered a criminal offense; 'illegal' religious instruction is now prohibited and severely punished. Religious weddings and other rites are subject to special taxes."

"In December, 1948, after a violent campaign," the statement said, "all Zionist organizations were forced to 'dissolve' voluntarily." In addition, the offices of the Jewish Agency, Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemet, the fraternal organization B'nai B'rith, the Joint Distribution Committee, the CRT, and the CSE have been closed by the police. Even the religious funeral society, the Chevra Kadisha, has been dissolved by the government. Finally, the government has 'nationalized' 256 Jewish charity institutions, including orphanages, children's homes, medical centers, and old age homes," the report added.

"In Hungary, leaders of the community were jailed for offenses 'against the dignity of the state.' In the 1948 elections of boards of Jewish communities, all independent groups were forced to withdraw their lists; Communist-dominated bodies were 'elected' on a single 'unity list.' The later developments followed the Rumanian pattern. On March 29, the Zionist Federation of Hungary announced its 'voluntary' dissolution," the report said.

"In Czechoslovakia, Jewish organizations were allowed to develop rather freely until the Communist coup in February, 1948. After that everything changed. The president of the Association of Jewish Religious Communities in Slovakia, Emanuel Frieder, was arrested, as was the president of the Zionist organization of Czechoslovakia, Oscar Krasnansky." In Poland, Jewish institutions enjoyed a certain degree of freedom for several years. Recently, the Central Jewish committee was reorganized to assure complete control by the Communists.

UNITED NATIONS POLITICAL COMMITTEE HEARS PLEA IN BEHALF OF JEWS OF TRIPOLITANIA

LAKE SUCCESS, May 3. (JTA) -- The United Nations Political Committee heard a plea by Dr. Maurice L. Perlsweig of the World Jewish Congress today in behalf of the Jewish community of Tripolitania.

"I speak for a group which has no defense but justice," he declared, "and which places its faith in the United Nations." The Committee, engaged in a consideration of the Italian colonies in Africa, was given a detailed account of the sufferings of this community of 30,000 in the last ten years.

Dr. Perlsweig called upon the U.N. to furnish effective guarantees that human rights and fundamental freedoms will be respected, whatever the Committee's final decision may be as to who should govern the territory.

FORMER GOVERNOR LEHMAN SAILS FROM FRANCE FOR ISRAEL ABOARD JEWISH IMMIGRANT VESSEL

PARIS, May 3. (JTA) -- Former Gov. Herbert H. Lehman, who completed a tour of Jewish DP camps in Germany on behalf of the Joint Distribution Committee, sailed from Marseilles today aboard the Israeli immigrant vessel, S.S. Negba, for Haifa. He expects to spend ten days in the Jewish state.

Gov. Lehman visited Jewish camps at Eranou, Kassel and Butzbach following a conference he held with Gen. Lucius D. Clay, U.S. Commander in Europe. He was accompanied on his tour of the DP centers by Harry Greenstein, Gen. Clay's advisor on Jewish affairs.

Reporting on his visit to the refugee centers in Germany, Gov. Lehman predicted that the Jewish DP camps would be emptied by September. Of the 40,000 Jews now living in the camps, 10,000 will leave for Israel before the end of this month, Lehman stated. He also voiced the hope that the U.S. Displaced Persons Act will be amended to eliminate its present discriminatory features. He said that while in Israel he will discuss with Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan plans for financial assistance to newly-arriving DP immigrants in the Jewish state.

HERI HERZOG OF ISRAEL RENEWS JEWISH STATE'S PLEDGE ON SAFEGUARDING HOLY PLACES

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog of Israel declared at a reception tendered in his honor last night by Yeshiva University that the Holy Places in Jerusalem should be placed under a guardianship representing all interested Parties, adding that the Jewish State would fully respect the Holy Places within its territory.

"The world wishes to know what assurances we are preparing to give to this end," Rabbi Herzog stated. "My reply is that during the battle of Jerusalem last year we sacrificed many precious lives which we could have saved but for our anxiety to keep these Holy Places outside the theatre of war. Our own ancient synagogues were being methodically destroyed within the walls of the Old City with hardly a word of protest from the civilized world." Dr. Herzog left New York today for a nation-wide speaking tour in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal.

THE CONTENTS OF THIS BULLETIN ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION