

JTA Daily News Bulletin

ISRAEL AND ARABS NEARING ACCORD ON "PEACE TALKS" AGENDA AT U.N. LAUSANNE PARLEY

LAUSANNE, May 16. (JTA) -- The U.N. Conciliation Commission, which is trying to bring about peace between Israel and the Arab countries, was reported today to have reached "a measurable distance" of agreement on the part of both the Israeli and Arab delegations with regard to the agenda of the proposed peace talks.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett is expected to arrive in Geneva late today where he will confer privately with the Israeli delegation head, Dr. Walter Eytan. Haseefi Yaltchin, Turkish member of the Commission, will leave here this week-end for about ten days. He will be represented during this period by his deputy.

ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE ACCEPTS SILVER-NEUMANN RESIGNATIONS; SETS SIX-MONTH BUDGET

JERUSALEM, May 16. (JTA) -- The Zionist Actions Committee decided last night to accept the resignations of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Dr. Emanuel Neumann as members of the Jewish Agency executive, following the refusal of the two American Zionist leaders to withdraw their resignations.

On recommendation of the Confederation of General Zionists, of which both men are members, the Actions Committee unanimously elected Itzhak Gruenbaum, former Minister of Interior in the Provisional Government, to one of the vacant posts, leaving the second unfilled for the present.

Dr. Israel Goldstein told the Committee that he deeply regretted the final resignation of Dr. Silver and Dr. Neumann, who "rendered tremendous services to the Zionist cause, both before and after the United Nations decision of Nov. 29, 1947, to set up a Jewish state in Palestine." He said, however, that the Confederation of General Zionists felt that the executive posts must be filled.

Earlier, the Actions Committee voted a budget of 51,300,000 pounds (\$153,900,000) for the next six months and urged the swiftest possible establishment of a series of agricultural settlements, particularly in the Jerusalem area. It noted that the settlements established in the Jerusalem-coastal plain corridor provided an "indestructible link" between the Holy City and the rest of Israel.

The Actions Committee also urged expansion of agricultural settlement in the Negev, and a speeding up of housing construction. It called on the Israeli Government to introduce compulsory war damage insurance and to establish an agricultural bank. Out of its budget, the Actions Committee allocated 1,250,000 pounds (\$3,750,000) for the development of Jerusalem and asked the government to take special measures to insure the city's revival.

A special resolution adopted by the Actions Committee urged the government to facilitate private investment in Israel and create conditions to attract private capital and promote industry. In a speech closing the session, Josef Sprinzak, speaker of Knesset, thanked the 37 nations which voted for Israel's admission to the United Nations and expressed the hope that those who had abstained or opposed her would soon change their minds.

The Jewish Agency executive today unanimously elected Dr. Nahum Goldmann as chairman of the Agency's American section. Dr. Goldmann has been serving as acting chairman since the resignation of Dr. Silver several months ago. The Agency also elected Haim Greenberg director of its cultural and educational department, which will aim to promote the Hebrew language and Hebrew culture.

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PRESIDENT WEIZMANN ARRIVES IN ISRAEL; S. AFRICA INFORMS ISRAEL OF DE JURE RECOGNITION

TEL AVIV, May 16. (JTA) -- President Chaim Weizmann returned to Israel today by plane. He inspected a guard of honor drawn up on the airfield and was greeted by senior Army officers. Later, he drove to his residence at Rehovot, 20 miles south-east of Tel Aviv.

Premier David Ben Gurion today received a cable from Prime Minister David F. B. of the Union of South Africa, confirming that nation's de jure recognition of Israel. The South African Prime Minister said that he hoped Israel would soon solve the major problems facing it, including demarcation of boundaries, internationalization of Jerusalem and the Arab refugee issue. The message added that great importance is attached to these questions in the Union.

A project for the construction of housing for immigrants in Israel to be financed by long-term, low interest rate investments by labor union members in the United States was announced here today by Jacob Potofsky, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, who is now visiting this country.

The low cost housing project will be financed largely by small individual investments from U.S. workers, Potofsky added. He declined to reveal the total capital sought for the project, but declared that "we are not dealing with small change." During his two-week stay in Israel the U.S. labor leader has studied Histadrut operations and needs.

The Histadrut's sick fund--Kupat Cholim--decided today to launch a \$6,000,000 building program for the next three years to provide for the extension and construction of additional hospitals, nursing schools and clinics.

ANGLO-ISRAELI FINANCIAL PARLEY STALLED ON TOP LEVELS; INFORMAL TALKS CONTINUE

LONDON, May 16. (JTA) -- The Anglo-Israeli financial talks, which began here May 2, seem to have stalled on the higher levels but are proceeding point-by-point on the technical level. Last week only one full-dress delegation meeting took place and this week none is scheduled. But informal talks between Israeli financial representatives and members of the Board of Trade, the Bank of England and the British Treasury are understood to be taking place.

An informed Israeli source told correspondents today that the major bone of contention--ignoring all the technical clashes--is that Britain is so far unwilling to differentiate between blocked balances, as those of Egypt and India incurred by wartime expenditures, and Israeli balances which are not debts owed by Britain, but rather bank deposits not complicated by political questions.

It is also reported that Britain fears to allow any wholesale freeing of Israel's sterling balances lest this be regarded by India and Egypt as a precedent in their cases. It is not known how long the talks will continue. Last week they were described by an Israeli spokesman as "protracted and difficult," and today both adjectives were regarded by Israeli representatives as still applicable.

Britain cannot survive as a Middle East power without the friendship of the Jews since Israel is the only democracy in that area of the world, Richard Crossman, Labor M.P., warned yesterday at a rally celebrating the first anniversary of Israel's independence. Lt. Col. D.H. Amery, Conservative M.P., and Clement Davies, leader of the Liberal Party, also spoke at the meeting.

ISRAEL TELLS U.N. WHY IT OPPOSES LIFTING OF DIPLOMATIC EMBARGO ON FRANCO SPAIN

FLUSHING MEADOWS, May 16. (JTA) -- Israeli representative to the U.N. Aubrey S. Eban today told the General Assembly that Israel will vote against a proposed resolution lifting the U.N. diplomatic embargo on the Franco regime in Spain.

In taking this stand, Eban explained that the Israeli delegation is not concerned at this time with the question of diplomatic representation or with any criticism of the Spanish people. What is important for Israel, Eban continued, is that the Franco regime was sympathetically linked to the Nazi-fascist alliance which ended in the extermination of 6,000,000 Jews.

Had that alliance prevailed, Eban said, neither the U.N. nor Israel would exist today and "the Jewish people and its ancient civilization would have perished from the earth." The memory of Jewish extermination, added Eban, is the decisive factor in determining Israel's stand on the resolution.

"One million Jewish children were thrown like useless rubbish into furnaces and gas chambers," Eban continued. "If the history of Israel lasts for countless millennia, we shall never, never, for a single moment allow ourselves to forget this most frightful episode in organized inhumanity." He pointed out that he does not assert that the Spanish regime had any direct part in the extermination program, but it was a sympathetic ally of the regime which was responsible for it and therefore the Israeli delegation, "in all conscience and responsibility," must vote against lifting the diplomatic ban.

GERMAN LEADER CHARGES ALLIES DO NOTHING TO AID REFUGEES NOW CROWDED IN VIENNA

VIENNA, May 16. (JTA) -- Neither the Allied occupation forces nor the Austrian authorities are taking any action to improve the welfare of the thousands of Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe who are now crowded into two Jewish centers in Vienna, Bronislaw Teichholz, president of the International Refugee Committee, charged here today.

Asserting that "Jewish emigration from the eastern countries is now in its final phase," Teichholz declared that the Jews who have now come to Vienna en route to Israel are only transients and will be transferred to Israel as soon as shipping space becomes available. "No matter how many come--and there have been more than 15,000 since the end of the war--we will not and cannot send back a single one," he said. "If they want to go to Israel they will have our support."

FRENCH MOROCCO AUTHORITIES BAN TWO ADDITIONAL JEWISH PUBLICATIONS ISSUED IN PARIS

PARIS, May 16. (JTA) -- Two additional Jewish publications issued in Paris have been banned in French Morocco, it was reported here today. The magazines now banned are the Jewish National Fund's official organ, "La Terre Retrouve," and "La Revue," a Heruth magazine. Earlier, circulation of the French-Jewish weekly, "La Defense," was barred in French Morocco.

ITALY PREPARED TO RETRY STREICHER'S ASSOCIATE CLASSIFIED AS "MINOR NAZI" BY COURT

MUNICH, May 16. (JTA) -- The Bavarian Ministry for Denazification has announced its willingness to reconsider the decision of a local court classifying as a "Minor Nazi" A. Max Wilmy, former associate of the notorious Jew-baiter Julius Streicher in the publishing of "Der Stürmer." Wilmy's light sentence aroused a storm of protest throughout the province.

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GREEK ARMY EXECUTES JEW CHARGED WITH CONTACTING GUERRILLAS; COMMUNITY APPEALS IGNORED

ATHENS, May 16. (JTA) -- Despite the intervention of the Jewish community of Greece and Chief Rabbi Ben Zion Uziel of the Sephardic community of Israel, Meir Brikat Levy, a 33-year-old Greek Jew, was executed this week-end in Larissa following his conviction by a military court which tried him on charges of being in contact with the guerrillas.

Prior to his trial, Levy, who was a reserve officer, offered to prove his loyalty by fighting at the front against the guerrillas. The numerous appeals in his behalf only managed to postpone the execution for a short time. Chief Rabbi Elias Barnai of Greece called on the commander-in-chief of the army and asked that Levy's life be spared. The army chief sent the file of the case to a special board of appeals.

At about the same time, the Minister of War, P. Canellopoulos, asked the commander of the Larissa district to investigate the case fully. The Central Jewish Board and the Jewish communities of the Larissa district as well as Levy's home town, Thessalonika, entered pleas in his behalf. Levy's brother was crippled while serving in the Greek Army and his sister and her entire family were victims of the Nazi atrocities.

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF JEWISH GROUPS MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANT

NEW YORK, May 16. (JTA) -- The Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations today made public a 96-page document submitted to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, containing a series of proposals on the structure, functions and international machinery to protect human rights. The Commission began meeting at Lake Success late last week to write an International Covenant of Human Rights.

The Consultative Council, which includes the American Jewish Committee, the Anglo-Jewish Association and the Alliance Israelite Universelle, recommended that individuals or groups of individuals as well as governments be permitted to initiate action before international bodies in order to protect human rights. It proposed the establishment of a permanent central commission on human rights, in addition to permanent regional commissions composed of independent persons, not subject to instructions from their governments.

The Council also recommended that members of these commissions be elected for a six-year term by the General Assembly of the United Nations or a committee appointed by it, or by the Economic and Social Council or the contracting parties. The procedure before the proposed commissions should be governed as far as possible by the fundamental principles applied to civil law, the Council said.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS SUGGESTS IMPROVEMENTS IN DRAFT COVENANT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

NEW YORK, May 16. (JTA) -- A series of proposals to remedy serious deficiencies in the draft covenant on Human Rights was made public here today by the World Jewish Congress. The proposals were submitted to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, chairman of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, which is now in session.

Among other recommendations, the Congress suggested that the following basic rights be guaranteed despite any national "emergencies": that no deprivation of life occur without due process of law; that mutilation, torture and slavery be outlawed; that liberty of movement be guaranteed; that no one be deprived of liberty without a fair trial; that retroactive criminal laws be prohibited and that freedom of religion and conscience and the right of assembly and association be guaranteed.

GREEK GOVERNMENT APPOINTS JEW AS ITS FIRST DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE TO ISRAEL

ATHENS, May 16. (JTA) -- The Greek Government has asked the Israeli Government's consent for the appointment of Joseph H. Mallah, a Jew, as its first representative to Israel, it was learned here today. Mallah, who has served as a member of the Greek parliament and as a Greek representative to the League of Nations, was active in the French resistance during the war.

Evidence that Greek abstention at the United Nations when Israel was voted into the World organization was causing dissension in the Greek coalition cabinet was seen here in a comment on the vote in Premier Themistocles Sophoulis' newspaper, Tita. The paper described Greece's abstention as "unfortunate" and openly criticized Foreign Minister Constantin Tsaldaris for this action.

ALLIANCE ISRAELITE SCHOOLS WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO ISRAELI GOVT. SCHOOL SYSTEM

TEL AVIV, May 16. (JTA) -- The Alliance Israelite Universelle schools in Israel, which have a total enrollment of approximately 5,000 students, will be incorporated into the government school system according to an agreement reached here between Minister of Education Zalman Shazar and Braunschwig Weil, chairman of the Alliance, who is now visiting Israel.

Instead of teaching English as a foreign language--as is customary in most other schools in the country--the Alliance schools will continue to offer French as the principal foreign language. Weil also reached an agreement with Haim Alperin, director-general of the Ministry of Agriculture, providing for the continuation of the Mikve Israel agricultural school under Alliance auspices, with the government covering part of the institution's expenses.

Representatives of the Alliance have also been conducting negotiations with government officials for the erection of additional schools primarily for newly-arriving immigrants reaching Israel from various North African areas.

LEHMAN LEAVES ISRAEL TODAY; URGES U.S. FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AID FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

TEL AVIV, May 16. (JTA) -- Former Governor Herbert H. Lehman of New York will embark on the Israeli transport Kedmah tomorrow en route to Marseilles, following completion of an inspection tour of Israel. Earlier, reporting on his trip here he recommended extension of American financial and technical aid to the new state and its Arab neighbors as part of a development program to promote peace in the Middle East.

Lehman asserted that "it was a miracle that this small people could defend themselves against an Arab population 50 times greater. It is equally miraculous that in face of war difficulties, the state could set up a sound, efficient and well-administered government." He added that Israel's progress was "even greater" than he anticipated but warned that the new nation faced "plenty of headaches" which would require outside financial aid for an indefinite period.

METALLURGICAL WORKS BEING CONSTRUCTED NEAR TEL AVIV AT COST OF \$900,000

TEL AVIV, May 16. (JTA) -- An urban metallurgical works, key industry in the production of malleable cast-iron, water pipe fittings and cast steel is now being built in Israel with an investment of nearly \$900,000, it was revealed today by Aryeh Shenzler, president of the Manufacturers Association of Israel, in a statement to the press.

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ISRAEL'S FOREIGN MINISTER VOICES CONFIDENCE ISRAEL WILL PLAY HELPFUL ROLE IN U.N.

MONTREAL, May 16. (JTA) -- Canadian Foreign Minister Lester B. Pearson voiced confidence that Israel will play a helpful and progressive role in the United Nations in a message addressed to a rally here marking the first anniversary of the Jewish state which was attended by 10,000 persons. Messages were also received from President Chaim Weizmann and Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog of Israel and from Samuel Hays, president of the United Zionist Council of Canada, who is now visiting Israel.

The local rally climaxed a series of Canada-wide celebrations marking the first anniversary of Israel's Independence Day. Guest speaker at the celebration was Rabbi James C. Heller, of Cincinnati, former president of the Zionist Organization of America and now a Labor Zionist leader.

Celebrations were also held in Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg and in smaller communities. In Ottawa, former member of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, I.C. Rand, was the guest speaker. David Hacohen, of Haifa, was the principal speaker at the Toronto rally, at which the United Jewish Appeal of that city announced a 1949 goal of \$2,152,500. Dr. Abram L. Sachar, president of Brandeis University, presided at the Toronto rally.

2,000 PERSONS MARK ISRAELI ANNIVERSARY AT N.Y. FETE; JERUSALEM INSTITUTIONS AIDED

NEW YORK, May 16. (JTA) -- More than 12,000 persons participated in a Madison Square Garden celebration last night marking Israel's first anniversary. The rally was held under the auspices of the United Charity Institutions of Jerusalem, with Rep. Samuel Celler serving as chairman. Proceeds from the celebration were earmarked for the organization's beneficiary institutions in Jerusalem.

HALF OF ISRAEL'S \$800,000,000-IMMIGRATION BUDGET MUST COME FROM U.S., FRISCH SAYS

NEW YORK, May 16. (JTA) -- Daniel Frisch, administration-supported candidate for the presidency of the Zionist Organization of America, declared last night that half of the \$800,000,000 which Israeli Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan deemed necessary for the Jewish state's immigration program must come from the Jewish community in the United States.

Addressing more than 300 delegates from thirty Z.O.A. districts in the organization's Manhattan Region, Frisch emphasized that these funds would have to emanate from two sources--the United Jewish Appeal and large-scale private investment capital. Frisch's candidacy for the Z.O.A. presidency was unanimously approved by the delegates. Jacques Torczyner, Z.O.A. vice-president, was elected president of the Region.

ESCO FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES GRANTING OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO TWO ISRAELI MUSICIANS

NEW YORK, May 16. (JTA) -- The Esco Foundation has announced the granting of scholarships to two Israeli musicians to enable them to attend the Tanglewood Music Festival this summer. Winners of the scholarships are Ben-Zion Orgad-Buschel, a 29-year-old composer who will study with Aaron Copland, and Elyakum Shapira, a 24-year-old conductor who will receive instruction from Serge Koussevitzky. The scholarship recipients are expected to arrive in the U.S. from Israel within a few weeks.

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