

Wednesday, June 1, 1949

JTA Daily News BulletinISRAEL SEEKS NO TRADE PACT WITH BRITAIN; WANTS RELEASE OF MORE "FROZEN" ASSETS

LONDON, May 31. (JTA) -- No formal trade agreement between Britain and Israel is now envisaged, David Horowitz, Under-Secretary of the Israeli Treasury said today following conclusion of negotiations with the British Government which resulted in the freeing of blocked Israeli sterling assets to the equivalent of \$27,800,000 over the next six months. The freed funds will be used to finance Israeli purchases in Britain and the sterling area.

Negotiations for the release of additional sums from Israel's blocked assets in London will be carried on after the expiration of the current agreement in October, Mr. Horowitz stated. The forthcoming negotiations in Tel Aviv, he added, will not be connected with this problem, but with British and Israeli claims and counter-claims.

Trade agreements so far concluded by Israel, with Holland, Poland and Hungary, Mr. Horowitz said, were designed mainly to facilitate the transfer of property of emigrants from those countries to Israel. The general pattern of Israeli trade, he said, has not yet been laid down.

Discussing the future of Anglo-Israeli trade, the Israeli official stated that capital investments in Israel would have to be much higher than the \$100,000,000 loan granted for capital investment by the Export-Import Bank with the proviso that purchases must be made in the United States. There would, he said, consequently be room for extensive purchasing in Britain.

Forecasting a large industrial development in Israel, Mr. Horowitz said the expansion of electrification in the country would keep pace with this development and the necessary electrical equipment would be obtained mainly in Britain. In addition, Israel contemplates purchase of pipe, trucks, and agricultural machinery there.

Egyptian Interference with British Ships Affects Israel

Commenting on reports that British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin was to raise with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Ahmed Pasha, the question of Egyptian interference with British ships in the Suez Canal, Mr. Horowitz said that this interference had considerably affected Israel. He said it was contrary to the Egyptian undertakings under the Rhodes armistice, as interpreted both by the United Nations and by Israel.

The London News Chronicle said today that the Egyptian authorities had interfered with the passage of nearly a hundred ships flying the British flag since the expiration of the British Mandate over Palestine a year ago. The paper commented editorially that this behavior suggested that Egypt, having ceased its shooting war against Israel, intended to pursue economic warfare instead. "If this is to be the policy of one of the principal Arab states," the paper said, "it is hard to see how there ever can be a settlement in the Levant."

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE; LEAVING FOR TEL AVIV VISIT

WASHINGTON, May 31. (JTA) -- Israeli Ambassador Eliahu Elath conferred today with Acting Secretary of State James E. Webb prior to his departure for Israel where he expects to remain about six weeks. The Ambassador touched upon the U.N.-sponsored Arab-Israeli negotiations taking place at Lausanne. He plans to leave for Israel on June 4.

Z.O.A. EXECUTIVE MEETS TO IMPLEMENT CONVENTION DECISIONS; PROGRESSIVE ZIONISTS DISSOLVE

NEW YORK, May 31. (JTA)--With the Zionist Organization of America reunited, the newly-elected executive held its first meeting today to take decisions to implement the resolutions adopted at the 52nd annual convention of the organization which concluded last night.

As his first official act as Z.O.A. president, Daniel Frisch sent a message of thank to President Truman for his "singular contribution to the establishment of the state of Israel." The message emphasized that "American Jews and the Jews all over the world will never forget the noble part" played by Truman in the rebirth of Israel.

The dissolution of the Committee for Progressive Zionism, an opposition group within the Z.O.A., was announced last night at the convention. Rudolph G. Sonneborn, newly-elected chairman of the National Administrative Council and a leader of the C.P.Z., who made the announcement, declared that the settlement of differences between the two factions was a "happy augury for the entire Zionist movement in the United States." He added that the new unity would bring "new blood and new strength into the ranks of the Z.O.A. and enable us to move forward resolutely to the aid of Israel."

Dr. Goldmann Stresses the Importance of Zionist Unity

In a speech delivered at the convention, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency executive, stressed the importance of the unity within the ranks of the Z.O.A., which was brought about at this conference.

Without going into the recent controversy with regard to the U.J.A., Dr. Goldmann stated that the issues and principles involved can only be settled definitely by the next Zionist Congress whose decision everybody agrees to accept. Whatever one may think about the course of action of the overwhelming majority of the Jewish Agency executive, the only motives of their action were the concern for the success of the U.J.A. and for the necessity of mobilizing all the resources of American Jewry to enable it to cope with the tremendous task of mass immigration into Israel, he pointed out. "However we may disagree, the ideas which hold us together are more important than our disagreement on methods," he emphasized.

Expressing the hope that the new administration of the Z.O.A. would initiate an era of harmony and cooperation between all parts of the movement and the elected authorities of the World Zionist Organization, Dr. Goldmann said: "As far as the executive is concerned, it is dominated by the best will for working together, for closing the ranks, to forget past differences of opinion and to unite in an unparalleled effort to fulfill the historic tasks of this great hour in Jewish history."

Arab-Jewish Peace Effort Moving Slowly, Eban Reports; Urges Patience

At the testimonial banquet for Dr. Emanuel Neumann last night, Aubrey S. Eban, Israeli representative to the United Nations, said that Israel was attempting to play her fullest role in the economic as well as political life of the Middle East. "Israel is seeking membership in the specialized agencies of the United Nations, including the International Labor Office, the World Health Organization and other economic bodies which offer the best available channels for planning the rehabilitation of the Near East on a regional scale.

"The center of Israel's struggle now turns to the economic scene within the country itself. It is a hard and critical struggle. To achieve success, Israel will need the same qualities of solidarity and self-confidence which shone radiantly

throughout our military and political struggle; and we shall need the support and assistance of American Jewry to a degree never approached before," Mr. Eban said.

The Arab-Jewish peace effort is "moving slowly," he reported, adding that "if there is patience there will be success. It is significant that where as but one year ago we were entirely cut off from our immediate world, Arab-Jewish contacts now proceed all the time on a level of authority and intimacy of which the world is only partially aware."

Frisch Pays Tribute to Leadership of Silver and Neumann

In paying tributes to Dr. Neumann, his predecessor in office, Mr. Frisch called him and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, "the supreme engineers and arbiters during an heroic period of our movement." Referring to Dr. Neumann's Jordan Valley Authority plan as "a monumental work," Mr. Frisch expressed the wish that the outgoing president "will contribute his wise counsel to the incoming administration and give me his aid in no less a degree than I gave him as I stood by his side during the last few years."

Dr. Neumann, replying to the addresses of tribute, said that "the convention has demonstrated afresh the vitality of our organization. Occasional differences and controversies are not only unavoidable but entirely normal in a great virile democratic movement like ours. But we have demonstrated once again our ability to surmount division and dissension and unite our forces in the interest of the cause we serve."

Both Meir Hartman, special assistant to Dr. Israel Goldstein, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, and Albert Schiff, president of the Israel Corporation of America, spoke of the need of investment in Israel by American Jews. Mr. Hartman asserted that the Jews of America who do not at present intend to migrate to Israel must be educated to invest in Israel through existing corporations. Mr. Schiff reported that the Israeli Government has undertaken to grant special concessions to all legitimate investment undertakings.

ZOA Commission to Leave for Israel; Will Negotiate with Govt. for "Charter"

At the first meeting of the newly-elected Z.O.A. national executive committee today Mr. Frisch reiterated the resolve of his administration to preserve the unity which has been attained at the convention with the formation of a coalition administration. He announced his impending departure for Israel on June 15, together with a seven-man commission, for the purpose of implementing the convention resolution for the establishment of an American General Zionist House in Tel Aviv for which the initial amount of \$292,000 was raised at the convention.

While in Israel, Mr. Frisch will negotiate with the Israeli Government for a "charter" for American Zionist projects in that country. The Commission will pay special attention to implementing a unanimous resolution of the convention to give aid to private industry in Israel. The resolution called for a study of the present needs of private industry in Israel with a view toward aiding Israelis in such industry. It also urged full support of the U.J.A. campaign.

The meeting authorized the opening of a Z.O.A. office in Israel pending the actual building of the American Zionist House which is to serve as a center of information for American Zionists visiting Israel. Dr. Sidney Marx was unanimously re-elected national secretary of the organization for the ensuing year.

ISRAELI PARLIAMENT DECIDES AGAINST ARMY CENSORSHIP OF STATEMENTS MADE IN KNESSET

TEL AVIV, May 31. (JTA) -- The Israeli press won a victory over the military censorship last night when the Israeli Knesset decided that all statements made in open session of the parliament could not be censored except by decision of the parliament.

The presiding officer and the two vice-chairmen of the assembly were authorized to ban publication of statements made in parliament considered harmful to the security of the state. This ruling will remain valid for the duration of the state of emergency in Israel.

Premier David Ben Gurion was named today an honorary member of the Jewish Legion of America. He enlisted in the Legion in 1918 while visiting the U.S. and became a member of the 39th Battalion Royal Fusiliers which liberated Palestine from the Turks in World War I.

In an informal ceremony at his offices, Ben Gurion accepted a special golden plaque presented him by a representative of the Legion. He said that everything possible must be done to aid the settlement in Israel of overseas volunteers who served with the Israeli armed forces during the fighting last year.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF JEWISH WOMEN DISCUSSES ANTI-SEMITISM AND REVIVAL OF JUDAISM

PARIS, May 31. (JTA) -- Agreement on the need of action to combat anti-Semitism and promoting a revival of Judaism was reached here at the first session of the International Council of Jewish Women to be held in 20 years. The conference also agreed on the need for establishing links with the state of Israel. It heard reports on the Jewish situation in Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Greece, Italy, South Africa and the United States.

Mrs. Joseph Welt was the principal speaker at a reception last night at which Dr. Isaac Schwartz, Chief Rabbi of France, presided. She outlined the aims of the conference and stressed the need to reestablish contacts among Jewish women throughout the world.

CANCELLATION OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP OF AMERICANS STRANDED IN PALESTINE IS CHALLENGED

NEW YORK, May 31. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress today announced institution of a Federal court action to restore U.S. citizenship to an American stranded in Palestine through no fault of his own.

The action will test the constitutionality of a section of the Nationality Act of 1940 which deprives a naturalized U.S. citizen of his nationality if he resides abroad continuously for more than five years. This section of the Act has no application to native-born citizens who, it is argued, are thus given an unconstitutional preference over other classes of citizens.

The case involves the cancellation of the passport of Morris Mendelsohn, a naturalized U.S. citizen presently residing in Israel. Mendelsohn, who acquired derivative citizenship when he was 10 years old through the naturalization of his father, arrived in this country at the age of 6 and resided here for 16 years. At the age of 22 he was sent to Palestine to manage certain properties owned by his father and was stranded there because of the outbreak of hostilities in the Near East area.

FIRST IMMIGRANT FROM SOVIET UNION REACHES ISRAEL; IS 76 YEARS OLD

HAIFA, May 31. (JTA) -- The first immigrant from the Soviet Union to arrive in the state of Israel since its establishment a year ago stepped off the liner Transylvania. She is Sophie Garfinkel, 76, who will live with her daughters in Kfar Gileadi.

SO. AFRICAN JEWS HAVE NOT SUFFERED FROM DISCRIMINATION, BOARD OF DEPUTIES PARLEY HEARS

JOHANNESBURG, May 31. (JTA) -- Despite the concern of the South African Jewish community when the Nationalist Party came into power last year, "there has been no discrimination against Jews living in South Africa," S.M. Kuper, retiring chairman of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, told the 350 delegates from all parts of the Union who are attending the Board's 17th biennial congress, now in session here. "On the contrary," he said, "all signs point to a resolve that racial discrimination of this kind be avoided."

Concern on the part of many members of the Jewish community, he stated, had arisen as a result of the discriminatory Nationalist proposals of the war years but in October, 1947, he added, Dr. Daniel F. Malan, then leader of the Nationalist opposition, had affirmed that the Nationalist Party was not anti-Jewish. He reaffirmed this statement to a deputation from the Board after the elections.

"We sincerely hope this will continue to be the policy of the Nationalist Party," Mr. Kuper declared, "that it will continue to recognize the Jews as full citizens of the Union, completely identified with the future of this country. For our part, we seek the friendship of all and would like to reestablish the friendly relations which existed between the Jewish community and all sections of the South African population before foreign doctrines, imported from abroad during a period of world crisis, received support in certain quarters."

Mr. Kuper, however, expressed regret that the Nationalist Party of the Transvaal, South Africa's largest province, still maintained its ban against Jewish membership. "The existence of this ban is a contradiction of democratic practice and profession of non-discrimination," he declared. "We have the right to ask removal of the ban, making it possible for every Jew to join any political party in this country with equal freedom."

MICHAEL STAVITSKY REELECTED PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

ATLANTIC CITY, May 31. (JTA) -- Michael A. Stavitsky, of Newark, N.J., was reelected yesterday president of the American Association for Jewish Education at the group's annual meeting here. Mr. Stavitsky, who will serve for a third consecutive term, hailed the "reawakened interest in Jewish education that has been stimulated throughout the United States by the establishment of Israel." Forty-two new members were elected to the Association's board of governors.

Mr. Stavitsky also noted that "all phases of Jewish education are being intensified by Orthodox, Conservative and Reform groups." Jewish communities are aware of the serious shortage of teachers and are enlisting their youth to enter the profession by providing greater standards of economic security, he said. The parley recommended establishment of a national parent-teacher association to coordinate the activities of the 1,000 local Jewish PTA groups now functioning in the U.S.

A gift of \$100,000 for the erection of a Jewish educational center in St. Paul, Minn., was announced at the meeting. The gift was made available by George Kaplan, of St. Paul, who is a member of the board of directors of the St. Paul Bureau of Jewish Education. The proposed center will include facilities for regular classroom work from the pre-school through the college level, and will also have a synagogue, library and recreation rooms.

The National Council for Jewish Education, which held its annual meeting simultaneously with that of the Association, reelected Judah Pilch, of Newark, to serve as president for a second term.

WEIZMANN SENDS TRUMAN SCROLL OF LAW FASHIONED AT BEZALEL; TORAH EXHIBITED IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, May 31. (JTA) -- A Scroll of the Law--a gift from President Weizmann to President Truman--which was fashioned at the famed Bezalel national museum was exhibited here today prior to its shipment to Washington. The Torah is richly decorated with traditional appurtenances.

AMERICAN GROUP OF HECHALUTZ MEMBERS FLIES TO ISRAEL; WILL ESTABLISH OWN COLONY

NEW YORK, May 31. (JTA) -- A group of 30 young men and women, members of Hechalutz groups in the United States, left by air today for Israel to found a communal settlement in the Jewish state. Originating from various sections of the U.S. and Canada, the unit will settle initially in Kfar Masaryk, named for the late President of Czechoslovakia, and will later form their own colony.

RECK JEWRY MOURNS PASSING OF ARCHBISHOP OF PARIS; AIDED JEWS DURING NAZI OCCUPATION

PARIS, May 31. (JTA) -- Jews throughout France joined today in mourning the passing of Emmanuel Cardinal Suhard, Archbishop of Paris. Cardinal Suhard strongly fought the Nazi persecution of Jews during the occupation of Paris and personally aided hundreds of Jews to escape death at Nazi hands.

Fr. Julien Weil, Chief Rabbi of Paris, in a statement today, said that the Jews of Paris will always gratefully remember the help given them by the late Cardinal during the German occupation.

ITALIAN CHIEF RABBI JOINS IN MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES CONDUCTED AT ANZIO BEACHHEAD

ROME, May 31. (JTA) -- Italian Chief Rabbi D. Prato yesterday recited a religious service for Jewish war heroes who died while serving in the U.S. armed services fighting in Italy during World War II. He joined General Mark Clark, Italian Defense Minister Rinaldo Ossola and U.S. Ambassador to Italy James C. Dunn in special Memorial Day services conducted at Anzio beachhead.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES FOR U.S. WAR DEAD HELD IN EUROPE; JEWISH CHAPLAINS PARTICIPATE

HEIDELBERG, May 31. (JTA) -- Army chaplains of the Jewish as well as Catholic and Protestant faiths yesterday conducted Memorial Day services at the graves of American war dead in Europe. Special services were held at ten cemeteries located in France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and England.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE CONDUCTED AT OLDEST JEWISH CEMETERY IN NEW YORK CITY

NEW YORK, May 31. (JTA) -- A group of 100 persons gathered yesterday at the oldest Jewish cemetery in New York City to pay tribute to the memory of 17 Jews who fell during the Revolutionary War. Led by Rabbi David de Sola Pool, of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, the group recalled the part which Jewish colonists played in the War for Independence. American flags, in keeping with the traditional Memorial Day practice, were placed at the graves of the dead.

HEROLD BERMAN, EDITOR OF ENGLISH-JEWISH PUBLICATIONS, DIES; WAS 70 YEARS OLD

GRANT HECK, L.I., May 31. (JTA) -- Harold Berman, retired editor and translator, died here yesterday at the age of 70. A native of Lithuania, he studied at New York University before serving as an editor of Jewish publications. Mr. Berman was associated with the Jewish Forum, Jewish Tribune, Telaud Magazine, Jewish Woman's Home Journal and other publications. He also translated from the works of Hebrew writers, including the late Prof. Chaim Tchernowitz.

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