

Friday, July 15, 1949

JTA *Daily News Bulletin*

WAGE-CUTTING PLAN EFFECTIVE TODAY IN ISRAEL; LABOR FEDERATION MAY OUST OPPONENTS

TEL AVIV, July 14. (JTA) -- Members of Mapam, the United Workers Party, may be expelled from all leading committees in the Histadrut, the Israeli Federation of Labor, should their party adopt an unyielding policy of opposition to the government's austerity program which includes among other measures the cutting of workers' wages as part of the plan to reduce the high cost of living.

Indications to this effect were given today by circles close to the Mapai, the Israeli Labor Party, as the executive of the Histadrut went into a closed session to reach a final decision with regard to the proposed automatic cut in wages which is to go into effect tomorrow throughout the country. Both Mapam and Mapai are strongly represented in the Histadrut.

It is understood that the Mapam members on the Histadrut executive entered today's meeting with the firm intention of taking the strongest possible stand against any wage-cutting. The Mapam claims that the curtailment of wages is not warranted and challenges the government assertion that the index of the cost of living has gone down substantially. The Mapam leaders charge that the latest index figures published by the government were falsified.

The establishment of the first Arab kibbutz in Israel, founded along the lines of the Jewish collective settlements, was announced today at the Histadrut's agricultural convention, which is taking place at Petach Tikvah. The announcement was made by leaders of the Arab Labor Federation, affiliated with the Mapai.

The Arab kibbutz is named Umva, Arabic for brotherhood. It is situated near Igda and has, as its nucleus, 27 men, three women and three children. Organized Arab labor in Israel is considerably impressed with the success of the Jewish settlements and with the fact that desert land has been converted by Jewish settlers into flourishing collective colonies.

Twenty-eight members of the Israeli Communist Party, who were expelled from the Beshonim Eitzair collective settlement in Zikim, announced today that they will establish their own kibbutz. The announcement said the group has already signed an agreement with the Jewish Agency for the acquisition of land near Rehovot.

EMERGENCY DEFENSE REGULATIONS IN ISRAEL END TODAY; KNESSET BODY STUDIES REPEAL

TEL AVIV, July 14. (JTA) -- The Emergency Defense Regulations introduced by the British administration in Palestine and which were enforced by the Israeli Government even after the establishment of the Jewish state officially expire tomorrow.

A bill sponsored by the Israeli Government asking for the prolongation of these regulations was today in the hands of the judicial commission of the Israeli parliament following a vote taken by the Knesset yesterday. Contrary to early reports that the parliament rejected this bill, it was learned today that, by a vote of 34-26, the parliament decided to refer the measure to its judicial commission in accordance with customary procedure.

On the other hand, the parliament, by the same number of votes, rejected a proposal put forth by the opposition that the bill should be returned to the government with instructions that a substitute bill be drafted, which would cancel the British emergency regulations.

EX-DIPLOMAT RESPONSIBLE FOR SENDING 400,000 JEWS TO DEATH IS RECOGNIZED IN ISRAEL

LONDON, July 14. (JTA) -- A former consular official in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, allegedly responsible for sending 400,000 Jews to death camps, has smuggled himself into Israel and is now under police surveillance there, Reuters reported today from Haifa.

The dispatch said that a woman is also under arrest in Israel after she was recognized in an immigrant camp there as a wartime collaborator with the Gestapo. She was accused by immigrants in the camp of being responsible for the death of many Jews and was nearly lynched, the report added.

ISRAELI CHIEF RABBI REPORTS ON HIS IMPRESSIONS OF AMERICAN JEWRY; LAUDS TRUMAN

JERUSALEM, July 14. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog of Israel declared today at a press conference, upon his return from visits to the U.S., England and France, that he favored the formation in Jerusalem of a rabbinical committee to aid the Chief Rabbinate in "the adjustment and unification of Jewish religious life and customs throughout the world."

Dr. Herzog lauded the devotion of the American Jewish community to Israel, but insisted that the "Jewish spirit must be strengthened in American Jewry." He said that while in the United States he discussed "at length" and in a friendly atmosphere the question of the future of Jerusalem with Cardinal Spellman. He declined, however, to reveal the contents of this discussion.

Rabbi Herzog was highly laudatory of President Truman, stating that Truman is a "wonderful, straightforward man who not only appreciates the Jewish vision of moral principles, but knows the Bible as well and respects the Jewish written laws." The Israeli Chief Rabbi said he endeavored, while in the U.S., to further the idea of both the Old and New sections of Jerusalem remaining in Jewish hands, with "inter-religious supervision for the Christian and Moslem Holy Places."

ISRAEL LABOR PARTY WITHDRAWS FROM "LEAGUE FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH SOVIET UNION"

TEL AVIV, July 14. (JTA) -- The Israeli Labor Party, Mapai, the country's largest political group, in a statement issued today announced its withdrawal from membership in the "League for Friendship with the Soviet Union." Mapai will continue to support the Committee for Cultural Relations with the Soviet Union, the statement said.

The statement denounced Mapai and the Communists in Israel for attempting to use the League as a platform for attacks against the Israeli Government. It asserted that the League was not fulfilling the tasks originally outlined in its constitution and program.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR ASKED TO CHECK REPORTS ON "VANISHED" JEWISH WRITERS IN U.S.S.R.

NEW YORK, July 14. (JTA) -- Soviet Ambassador to the United States Ivan Panyushkin was requested today to verify with the Moscow government reports current here for some time that a number of leading Jewish writers in the U.S.S.R. have "disappeared" without trace. The request was addressed to him by the Yiddish P.E.N. Club of America, which represents Jewish poets, essayists and novelists in this country.

Among the writers reported to have 'vanished' are Itzik Feffer, who several years ago visited the United States as representative of the now-dissolved Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee of Moscow. Other writers whose fate is unknown include David Bergelson, prominent novelist; Peretz Markish, well-known poet and playwright; Moshe Broderzon, noted author, and others. The P.E.N. Club asked Ambassador Panyushkin to ascertain their whereabouts.

SOVIET AGENCY LAUNCHES ANTI-ISRAELI PROPAGANDA DRIVE; REPORTS "UNREST" IN ISRAEL

LONDON, July 14. (JTA) -- British official sources are watching with great interest the barrage of anti-Israeli propaganda which is now being disseminated through the Soviet news agency Tass in a series of dispatches from Moscow.

Today's dispatch from the Soviet capital emphasizes that there is unemployment and "demobilization unrest" in Israel. It also reports that the Israeli Government has concluded "a binding agreement" with the Standard Oil Company whereby Israel paid a fee more than three times as high as prices current in Haifa.

The anti-Israeli propaganda intensified by the Moscow government is taken here as an indication that Soviet authorities are somewhat nervous over the American development plan for the Middle East which is expected to be published shortly and which is known to be favored by Israel.

The Russians advocate development of the Middle East by the United Nations through U.N. agencies on which the Soviet bloc is represented. However, the United States, Britain and France agreed during their recent "exchange of views" to seek development and settlement in the Middle East without Soviet participation.

ISRAELI ENVOY TO ROME PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO ITALIAN PRESIDENT IN SIMPLE CEREMONY

ROME, July 14. (JTA) -- Shlomo Gincossar, Israel's first Minister to Italy, today presented his credentials to Italian President Luigi Einaudi. Mr. Gincossar was accompanied on his call to the President by Ben Zion Kaduri, counsellor to the Israeli legation, and Dr. K. Ghinton, commercial attache. No political issues were raised at the presentation ceremony.

A total of 2,300 displaced Jews originating from Czechoslovakia, Austria, Tripoli and Egypt sailed from Italy for Israel during the first two weeks of this month, it was announced here.

ISRAEL DESIGNATES CONSUL-GENERAL FOR SO. AFRICA; CONSUL TO AUSTRALIA LEAVES FOR POST

TEL AVIV, July 14. (JTA) -- The Israeli Foreign Ministry announced today the appointment of Dr. D. Goltien as consul-general in the Union of South Africa. Dr. Goltien and J. Golan, newly-appointed consul, will leave for Johannesburg next month. Meanwhile, Israel's consul-general for Australia and New Zealand, Harry Levin, left last night for Melbourne.

A group of Youth Aliyah graduates who completed a training course at the Hofetz Haim Kibbutz in England decided today to establish a new settlement in the Negev. Another contingent of Youth Aliyah graduates from Turkey set themselves up today as farmers at Beth Jebrin, near Hebron. A total of 13,000 Youth Aliyah students are now undergoing intensive training throughout England.

EBAN ARRIVES IN ISRAEL TO CONSULT WITH SHARETT; MRS. MYERSON, HENRY MONTOR ALSO LAND

TEL AVIV, July 14. (JTA) -- Israel's chief delegate to the United Nations, Aubrey S. Eban, arrived in Israel today for consultations with Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett and other government officials. He is expected to take up the question of the Jewish state's policy at the forthcoming session of the U.N. General Assembly.

Labor Minister Golda Myerson also returned here today following an extensive speaking tour in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal in the U.S. Henry Montor, director of the U.J.A., arrived together with Mrs. Myerson. The S.S. Theodor Herzl disembarked a group of 600 immigrants at Haifa last night.

HITLER'S ENVOY DENIES HE ORDERED PURGING OF JEWS FROM POSITIONS IN FRENCH GOVERNMENT

PARIS, July 14. (JTA) -- Otto Abetz, Hitler's ambassador to France during the Nazi occupation period, who is now on trial here for complicity in deporting 40,000 Jews from France to extermination camps in Poland, as well as for other war crimes which he committed against French citizens, defended himself today against the accusation that he ordered the pro-Nazi Vichy government to purge all Jews from government offices.

The accused Nazi diplomat claimed that the purging of Jews from official positions in France did not take place at his instigation but was voluntarily carried out by the Vichy regime. He argued that the purge was started by the Vichy government in October, 1940, without any instructions from Nazi occupation authorities.

JEWS ACQUITTED OF ILLEGAL EMIGRATION CHARGES STILL HELD IN INTERMENT IN HUNGARY

BUDAPEST, July 14. (JTA) -- No action is likely to be taken before the end of the summer on the appeal lodged with the higher court here by the six Zionist leaders who were sentenced on June 18 to varying terms of imprisonment for allegedly aiding the illegal emigration of Jews from this country, it was learned today.

The three Zionist leaders who were acquitted at that trial are still being held in interment, apparently until the entire case will be reviewed by the Appeals Court.

10,000 JEWS REMAIN IN BULGARIA; LEADERS CONFER ON JEWISH COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

SOFIA, July 14. (JTA) -- About 10,000 Jews still remain in Bulgaria following the emigration of 37,000 to Israel during the last two years, it was reported here at a conference of representatives of Jewish communities attended by about 50 delegates.

The conference decided to have all Jewish cultural and religious affairs in the country supervised by the Jewish Consistory, central body of the communities, headed by Dr. Jacob Nathan, a professor of the university here. Organized Jewish communities still exist in Sofia, Plovdiv, Russe, Marok, Vambol, Bourgas and other towns.

It was reported at the conference that the Jewish communities in Bulgaria decided to sever relations with the World Jewish Congress because of "the reactionary and pro-Zionist activity of the leadership of this world Jewish organization, rudely expressed with the refusal to join the World Peace Congress." A report was presented at the conference on the activities of the Jewish bank "Goulah" and on other Jewish institutions.

CONFERENCE SUMMONED TO DISCUSS FATE OF JEWS REMAINING IN GERMANY PERMANENTLY

PARIS, July 14. (JTA) -- A special conference of representatives of world Jewish organizations has been called by Harry Greenstein, advisor on Jewish affairs to the American Military Government in Germany, for the purpose of discussing the problems of Jews who will remain in Germany after the liquidation of the DP camps, it was revealed here today. The meeting will be held July 31.

The conference will also take up questions concerning religious and cultural activities among Jews in Germany as well as problems connected with the restitution of Jewish property. The problem of promoting cooperation between Jews and non-Jews in Germany will also be one of the major issues discussed.

Participating in the parley will be representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee, American Jewish Committee, World Jewish Congress, ORE, Central Committee for Liberated Jews in Germany and representatives of the Jewish communities in the three western zones of Berlin.