

Tuesday, January 17, 1950

JTA Daily News Bulletin

Published by the JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY - 106 East 41st Street, New York 17, N.Y.

ARABS MASSING ARMIES ON ISRAEL'S BORDERS; NO THREAT OF WAR SEEN IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Israel's Arab neighbors are concentrating armed units along the borders of the Jewish state, it was reported here today. However, this development was not interpreted in informed circles here as a sign of impending renewal of hostilities.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry issued an order to all male veterans under 49 years of age to enlist in the Army reserve. The same order provides for women veterans under 34 to join the reserve. Lt. Col. Michael Schachter, military commander in Jerusalem, who released the order here, declared that "the entire country must be prepared for a state of emergency."

Jerusalem will be the first Israel city to register reserve members in the armed forces. Veterans under 30 will receive reserve training for one month while those between 30 and 49 will be trained for two weeks. An additional week of training is scheduled for reserve officers. It is expected that registration for the reserve force will be extended throughout the country before the end of this month.

(Martial law, which has been in effect in Egypt since the beginning of the Palestine war, will be lifted, Premier Mustafa Nahas Pasha, announced in Cairo today. He said that a draft of a law ending martial law will be presented to Parliament immediately.)

A Foreign Office spokesman today discounted reports that Israel is ready to yield certain sections of Jerusalem to Jordan in return for a guarantee of access for Jews to the Wailing Wall in the Arab-held Old City. The reports are unfounded, the spokesman said, adding that too much significance should not be attached to "informal, sporadic contacts" with Jordan.

The last Jordan Arab prisoner of war crossed Israel lines yesterday on the way back to Jordan. A government communique revealed that 150 packages of clothing had been sent by Israel Arabs to Jordan.

Arrangements have been completed for the first official of the Kingdom of Jordan to testify in a court of Israel, it was learned here today. The witness, Shubhi Tukhan of Amman, will cross the lines in the Jerusalem area and will testify in the trial of two Arabs charged with the murder of a Jew named Weiss last year in the village of Rishpon.

THREE ISRAEL MINISTRIES COMPLETE TRANSFER OF THEIR OFFICES TO JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The Ministries of Justice, Communications and Labor have completed the transfer of their offices from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and will be officially opened to the public tomorrow.

The Ministries of Interior and Health will complete the moving of their departments to Jerusalem within a few days while the Finance Ministry is expected to complete its transfer in two weeks.

1/17/50

STATE DEPT. ANNOUNCES POLICY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF JERUSALEM INTERNATIONALIZATION PLAN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The United States will "participate constructively" in United Nations Trusteeship Council efforts to achieve implementation of the internationalization of Jerusalem, Michael J. McDermott, State Department spokesman, announced today, in amplification of a prepared State Department statement made public this afternoon. The statement reads:

"The United Nations Trusteeship Council is to meet in Geneva on January 19 to consider the Jerusalem question within the framework of the instructions to the Council contained in the December 9th resolution of the General Assembly.

"Although it opposed the General Assembly resolution, the United States, consistent with its policy of respect for decisions taken in the United Nations by a majority of members, abides by the decision and is prepared as a member of the Trusteeship Council to participate constructively when the Council undertakes the task concerning Jerusalem given it by the Assembly."

POLITICAL PARTIES IN ISRAEL DISCOUNT "CABINET CRISIS" OVER RELIGIOUS BLOC CHARGES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Threats by members of the Religious Bloc to resign from the Cabinet over the failure of the Israel Government to enforce various religious edicts in the immigrant camps were today discounted by spokesmen for various political parties here.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet has appointed an investigating committee to probe the charges made by the religious parties last week. Pending a report by this body, in about two weeks, no further development in the "Cabinet crisis" is expected.

The left-wing Mapam accused the Religious Bloc leaders of "blackmail" in reference to the charges, while a Labor Party spokesman refused to comment beyond: "Everything will be smoothed out." The centrist General Zionist Party believes that the matter will be cleared up by the government giving in to the Religious Bloc.

(Benjamin Mintz, chairman of the parliamentary committee for internal affairs in Israel who is now on a visit to this country, today announced that he has sent a cable to Premier David Ben Gurion asking him to intervene against reported violations of religious ethics in the immigration camps in Israel. The cable was sent following a request made to Mr. Mintz over the overseas telephone by the faction of the Agudah Laborite members of the Knesset.)

A special urgent session of the executive of the General Zionist party was held today to discuss Premier Ben Gurion's offer as a basis for their rejoining the Cabinet. The body decided that the offer was acceptable on condition that the government introduces changes in its makeup and its economic policy.

COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER FACES TRIAL IN ISRAEL; CHARGED WITH LIBELLING PREMIER BEN GURION

TEL AVIV, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- A trial against the Israel Communist newspaper Kol Ha'am was formally opened here today, but was postponed almost immediately at the request of the district attorney because of the transfer today of the Justice Ministry offices from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The charge is that the newspaper libeled Premier David Ben Gurion in its issue of Oct. 14 last, when it termed an anti-Communist speech by Mr. Ben Gurion "treason against the nation and the working class."

NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF DE JURE RECOGNITION TO ISRAEL

THE HAGUE, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The Netherlands Government today accorded de jure recognition to Israel, it was officially announced here.

MORGENTHAU ARRIVES IN ISRAEL; ADVOCATES AMERICAN FINANCIAL AID FOR JEWISH STATE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, who arrived at Lydda Airport this morning, told a press conference that he came to Israel at the invitation of Premier David Ben Gurion for discussions on the new state's major financial problems.

The former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury stated: "I want to see how well the U.J.A. helps Israel cope with its peace problems, particularly the needs of hundreds of thousands of new immigrants." Mr. Morgenthau said that Americans now display a "greater understanding for the courage of the Israelis." He forecast "prompt and increased financial support to Israel."

The U.J.A. general chairman emphasized that under President Truman's Point Four program, the United States should give Israel the help she needs "for getting on her feet. Larger American aid would represent a solid investment in world freedom," he added.

"All recognize that Israel's problems and needs in peace are greater than in wartime," he declared. "For this reason I am confident that the U.J.A. will raise larger funds in 1950 than in 1949." Mr. Morgenthau was welcomed at Lydda Airport by Labor Minister Golda Myerson and by representatives of Premier Ben Gurion and U.S. Ambassador James G. McDonald.

BRITISH ZIONIST MOVEMENT URGED TO MAKE CHALUTZIUT ITS PRIMARY ACTIVITY

LONDON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- A call to the Zionist movement in Britain to make Chalutzit its primary activity was issued here last night at the fifth annual meeting of the PATWA--the Professional and Technical Workers Aliyah-- which was attended by 55 delegates from London and outlying communities. E. Reik, chairman of the organization, reported that the organization has attained a record membership of 475 qualified professional workers in all categories who are ready to "place their skill at the disposal of the Jewish state."

Enthusiastic applause greeted Lord Samuel when the veteran statesman, known for his moderate views on Palestine policy, pronounced his credo on Jerusalem, which he described as the "past, present and future capital of Israel." Lord Samuel made this assertion in an address at a dinner at which a fund-raising campaign for \$140,000 was launched for a "Lord Melchett Memorial Fund" to be used for the repair of the Tel Aviv Stadium.

FIRST BANK OPENS IN NEGEV; EXTENDS 24,000 POUNDS IN LOANS TO SETTLERS AND BEDOUINS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The Kupat Milve Bank opened last month in Beersheba--the first banking office in the Negev--has already extended 24,000 pounds in loans to settlers in the southern desert, it was announced today. Sixty percent of the loans were granted to former veterans who have settled in the Negev, while about 4,000 pounds was loaned to Bedouins for the purchase of seed.

Israel's system of settling thousands of immigrants on the land and in urban areas will be inspected this week by the secretary of the Indian Cooperative Union, who arrived at Lydda today via Philippine Airlines. The Indian official declared upon his arrival that "we, too, have our refugees to settle--about 7,000,000 persons who crossed into India from Pakistan."

MOSCOW SEEKS TO CURB ENTHUSIASM FOR ISRAEL AMONG SOVIET JEWS; ISRAEL LEGATION ISOLATED

BOSTON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The reaction of the Soviet Government toward the flood of Jewish enthusiasm for Israel throughout the U.S.S.R. is described in another of a series of articles by Edmund Stevens, former Christian Science Monitor correspondent in Moscow, who is now sending uncensored reports on Russia from Rome.

Reporting that the Kremlin was "thoroughly alarmed" when Jewish enthusiasm for Israel mounted in the Soviet Union in the winter of 1948-49, Mr. Stevens said that "almost overnight the Israel legation in Moscow was effectively isolated from further contact with the Jewish population." Police agents turned away Soviet visitors at the Israel legation and a few "judicious arrests" curbed further demonstrations, he says.

Presumably under a new directive, all Jewish organizations in Moscow, including the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, were considered potential centers of Jewish nationalism and Zionism and therefore suspect, the correspondent reports. A drastic and systematic campaign to eliminate Jews from posts of responsibility, and especially from positions involving contact with the outside world was launched. "In a matter of weeks all Jews serving with the Soviet occupation administrations in Germany and Austria were recalled. No more Jews were included on foreign missions and delegations," Mr. Stevens states.

Today, Jews are not even admitted to the special school that trains personnel for the Soviet foreign service, Mr. Stevens points out. "The same restrictions apply to the Ministry of Foreign Trade," he says. "Elsewhere in the government and party apparatus a similar process of elimination has occurred. One will search in vain, for example, for recent Jewish recruits to the central party echelons. The one Jew on the Politbureau is Lazar Kaganovich, a long-standing member with strong personal connections whose loyalty is above suspicion."

Describing the purge of Jewish intellectuals in the Soviet Union, the American correspondent says that the only important Jewish writers to survive this purge were Ilya Ehrenburg and David Zaslavsky.

"ELECTORAL GHETTO" FOR SALONIKA JEWS WIPED OUT BY NEW GREEK GOVERNMENT LAW

ATHENS, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The "electoral ghetto" established for Salonika Jews by the Greek national elections law of 1946 has been abolished in the new legislation just published here.

Under the old law Jews living in Salonika were not permitted to vote in the same polling places as other residents, but were required to go to special polls. The Jewish Community has vigorously protested this procedure for the past several years, pointing out that in effect the Jews of Salonika did not enjoy a secret ballot and were ready victims of pressure and discrimination.

At first the government refused to make any changes in the set-up. However, following the threat that the Jews would boycott the national elections which will be held March 5, abolition of the ghetto was included in the election regulations.

JACOB EPSTEIN GETS COMMISSION TO EXECUTE BRONZE FIGURE FOR "FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN"

LONDON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Jacob Epstein, world famous Jewish sculptor, has just received a commission to execute a bronze figure for the 1951 "Festival of Britain." The figure will be that of a man and will symbolize "man's urge to discovery and endeavor."

VENEZKY NAMED CHAIRMAN OF U.J.A. CAMPAIGN CABINET; WILL HEAD DECENTRALIZED MACHINERY

NEW YORK, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Julian B. Venezky, of Peoria, Ill., has been named chairman of the National Campaign Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal, which will direct the nationwide drive of the Appeal to meet immigration, settlement and reconstruction needs totalling \$272,455,800. He will serve under general chairman Henry Morgenthau, Jr.

Mr. Venezky, a prominent Illinois attorney and business leader, has held leading positions in the United Jewish Appeal for several years. During 1949, he was the national chairman for regions, in which capacity he directed the regional organization of the nationwide campaign, which is conducted in 5,600 communities in the U.S., as well as in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

In his first official act as chairman of the National Campaign Cabinet, Mr. Venezky announced the mobilization of campaign leaders throughout the country to secure large amounts of cash immediately to meet "desperate needs" of the U.J.A. Agencies, particularly in Israel, where the heaviest rains in 70 years have resulted in great suffering among the 80,000 immigrants quartered in reception camps.

To speed the collection of cash, Mr. Venezky said, the Cabinet has been divided into several "flying squads" which will visit major cities to spur cash contributions to the United Jewish Appeal drive. He also revealed that a major task of the Cabinet members will be to coordinate the relationships between the national U.J.A. and the major campaign cities.

At a meeting of the U.J.A. Campaign Cabinet in New York, which elected Mr. Venezky to the chairmanship, Mr. Morgenthau, who is now visiting in Israel, announced that he has completed plans for decentralizing the national fund-raising machinery of the United Jewish Appeal, with responsibility for the drive in key areas delegated to the 14 national campaign chairmen who comprise the Cabinet.

GOLDMANN SEES GOOD PROSPECTS FOR U.J.A. DRIVE; WANTS LESS ALLOCATIONS FOR LOCAL NEEDS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The 1950 United Jewish Appeal campaign will be more successful than that of 1949 and will yield more funds for Israel if the local Jewish welfare funds in various cities of the United States stop allocating large percentages of contributed funds for local needs, Dr. Mahum Goldmann, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency executive, declared at a press conference here last night. Dr. Goldmann is attending the current Jewish Agency session in this city.

Speaking of relations between the Zionist Organization of America and the American section of the Agency, Dr. Goldmann asserted that an "improved and full understanding" exists between the two bodies. The immediate results of this relationship, he added, include an improvement of prospects for the 1950 U.J.A. drive and better control of multiple campaigns in the U.S. in behalf of Israel needs.

The American Zionist leader also declared that the prestige and influence of the Agency has increased in the U.S. in recent months and is now "well-rooted." The aim of the Agency, he continued, is to establish and maintain a strong worldwide Zionist organization. The forthcoming 23rd World Zionist Congress, whose opening date has not yet been set, "may be the last or the first of a new, reborn Zionist organization," Dr. Goldmann stated.

Israel needs a new and strong Zionist organization for at least another generation, he insisted. He suggested that it was the task of the Israel Government to establish friendly relations with the Zionist organization, for the benefit of both parties.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA STARTS SURVEY ON JEWISH EDUCATION, SYNAGOGUE ATTENDANCE

NEW YORK, Jan. 16. (JTA) - A national survey on four of the most important phases of congregational activity was launched by the United Synagogue of America today, it was announced by Samuel Rothstein, president of the organization. The survey will deal with the problems of synagogue attendance, Jewish education on the school level, adult Jewish education and youth work in Conservative congregations throughout the U.S.

The survey will devote itself to review all data in its areas of investigation. Fact-finding questionnaires will be submitted to congregational leaders and inquiries will be made of the rank and file of Conservative congregations. In each case complete anonymity will encourage frank and inclusive information.

The findings of the survey will be reviewed at a special session of the United Synagogue's national convention, to be held in Washington in November, at which time the survey will be released for publication, together with recommendations based on the inquiry.

N.Y. STATE LEGISLATURE TO GET BILL BARRING COLLEGES FROM ACCEPTING BIAS BEQUESTS

ALBANY, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Assemblyman Monroe Flegenheimer this week-end revealed that he will introduce a bill in the New York Legislature to prevent schools in this state from accepting "bigots' bequests."

The Manhattan Assemblyman said his bill would deprive schools accepting bequests to be used "only for certain select groups" of real estate tax exemption. "We cannot have laws on our books which tell colleges not to refuse admission because of race, color or religion and, at the same time, make it possible for these institutions to accept gifts which tell them that these bequests are to be used only for certain select groups," he said.

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OUTSIDE ISRAEL MUST HAVE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY, FRISCH SAYS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization outside Israel must have administrative autonomy, Daniel Frisch, president of the Zionist Organization of America, declared today in a statement to the press.

The Z.O.A. president stressed that the Zionist Organization of America "must have strong representation in the management of American Zionist organizational affairs" and reiterated that "differences among Zionist parties outside Israel must be reduced to a minimum if the Zionist movement is to survive." Anyone promoting a policy conducive to friction between Zionist organizations, he said, "does a great disservice to struggling Israel."

WORLD JEWISH CHILD'S DAY TO BE OBSERVED IN U.S. CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS NEXT MONTH

NEW YORK, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- World Jewish Child's Day will be observed on February 19 throughout the United States in churches, synagogues, Sunday schools and organizations, it was announced here today by Rudolf G. Sonneborn, chairman of the Youth Immigration Coordinating Committee, which is sponsoring observance of the Day in this country.

One of the feature events in this country will be the writing of letters by children in a thousand Sunday Schools across the nation to youth in Israel. While pageantry and festivities will mark most of the day's activities, Mr. Sonneborn said, the children here and throughout the world will devise projects to aid more than 75,000 homeless Jewish youth migrate to Israel.

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