

Wednesday, February 8, 1950

JTA Daily News Bulletin

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

"SNOW SIEGE" IN JERUSALEM BROKEN; CROPS AFFECTED; DAMAGES REACH MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Springlike sunshine and American bulldozers today broke the "snow siege" of Jerusalem, clearing the main roads in and around the city. However, the lowest temperatures in the memory of the oldest inhabitants still hampered all work in Upper Galilee and the Haifa area where interurban traffic was virtually paralyzed.

The city of Safed remained completely isolated from the rest of the country and in Haifa all port operations were at a standstill, as were most services in the city. High seas prevented 25 vessels from entering the harbor. Telegraphic communications between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv were partially restored this morning and one freight train--from Hartuv--plowed its way through two-foot drifts late yesterday.

In Jerusalem, the walls of a synagogue in the Old City collapsed under the weight of the snow, killing several Arab refugees housed there. Four Jews were killed and many injured last night when a wall of a mess hall at the Ein Shemer immigrant camp for Yemenites collapsed under the weight of snow. As below freezing temperatures continue in all parts of the country, immigration camps officials are working day and night to relieve the misery of immigrants living in tents. All through the night Jewish Agency officials evacuated to temporary quarters in public buildings immigrants whose tents were damaged.

Early estimates today placed the damage caused by the snow storm to the ripening citrus crop in the millions of dollars. However, the Ministry of Agriculture said that the citrus groves did not suffer considerably, but that vegetable and banana crops are "badly endangered," with very gloomy prospects for improvement.

All food and other supplies were plentiful in Jerusalem, except that the nearly complete paralysis of traffic interfered with distribution. However, water supplies were extremely low because many pipes had frozen. Few accidents were reported in the city and the local police rescued a number of cars stalled in the suburbs, including one in which Levi Eshkol, Jewish Agency treasurer, was stranded at Castel Hill, about six miles west of the city.

U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL STALLS ON JERUSALEM ISSUE; AWAILS EBAN ARRIVAL IN GENEVA

GENEVA, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- With Aubrey S. Eban, chief Israel delegate at the United Nations, expected to arrive here today, the U.N. Trusteeship Council has postponed its discussion on the internationalization of Jerusalem until Friday. The members of the Council are awaiting further news of the Israel-Jordan peace talks, which Mr. Eban is expected to bring.

Tomorrow, the Trusteeship Council will hear the Greek Orthodox and the Armenian patriarchs of Jerusalem. In the meantime, Roger Garreau, president of the Council, announced today that he had received a large number of private letters about his proposal to modify the U.N. General Assembly resolution on the internationalization of Jerusalem. "With astounding unanimity I am criticized--not to say insulted," he said. "In some cases I am called a Jew and in others a Jesuit."

ANGLO-ISRAEL FINANCIAL TALKS CONCLUDE; ISRAEL TO RECEIVE ABOUT \$30,000,000 FROM BRITAIN

LONDON, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The financial talks conducted here between Britain and Israel for the release of frozen sterling assets were successfully concluded today with a speed which evoked surprise even in British Treasury circles.

Under the terms of the new agreement, Israel will receive approximately \$30,000,000 in British pounds which will be released by the end of this year, when it is anticipated that another agreement will be necessary to clear the balance of the blocked assets. It was estimated here today that the balance amounts to about 13,000,000 pounds.

British officials attribute the speedy settlement of the talks largely to the business-like and forcible manner in which the negotiations were conducted by David Horowitz, the head of the Israel delegation. Progress was also reported today on the Anglo-Israel talks dealing with the liquidation of the claims of the Mandatory regime in Israel. The agreement reached today has to be approved by the Foreign Office. Approval is expected before Friday.

COMMUNISTS START SIT-DOWN STRIKE IN HISTADRUT OFFICES; THREATEN TO GO ON HUNGER STRIKE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Eleven Communists, who had declared a sit-down strike in the building of the Jewish Agency here and were ejected by police Sunday, today renewed their sit-down strike in the offices of the Agricultural Division of the Histadrut.

The demonstrators threaten to go on a hunger strike if the Agricultural Division of the Histadrut does not immediately consider their claims. Their principal demand is that they be restored to full rights in settlements where, they allege, discrimination is being practiced against them because of membership in the Communist party.

ISRAEL MUST BECOME STRONG SEA POWER TO PROTECT TRADE AND NATION, BEN GURION SAYS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Israel's security and economic well-being depend on its becoming a strong naval power in the Middle East, Premier David Ben Gurion declared last night at exercises at which 16 new naval navigation officers received their commissions.

The Premier pointed out that Israel's only links to the rest of the world are the sea and air lanes and that therefore "one of our main tasks is the conquest of the seas in order to safeguard exports, imports and the tourist trade." He also declared that despite Israel's efforts peace with the Arabs is still not near.

GOLDMANN DENIES JEWISH AGENCY DECIDED TO RESTRICT IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

LONDON, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, who is en route back to the United States from Jerusalem, today denied at a press conference here that the Agency ever decided to restrict immigration to Israel. Such a possibility, he added, was not even discussed.

Reviewing the results of the plenary meeting of the Agency, Dr. Goldmann stated that the decision on separation of functions between the Israel Government and the Agency which was reached one and a half years ago by the Zionist Actions Committee was premature and "in many respects does not exist in practice." He noted that although the Jewish Agency is in principle responsible for immigration to the Jewish state, the principal burdens of housing the new arrivals will be carried out in 1950 by the Israel Government.

McCLOY CALLS ON GERMANS TO INDEMNIFY VICTIMS OF NAZI PERSECUTION AND CONFISCATION

STUTTGART, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- It is American policy that persons and organizations deprived of property as a result of the Nazi policy of racial and political discrimination shall have their property returned to them or be given adequate compensation and that victims of the Nazi persecution receive indemnification for their sufferings, American High Commissioner in Germany John J. McCloy declared yesterday at the opening of Amerika Haus, a U.S. information center in this city.

Commissioner McCloy, who reported to the Germans on his recent visit to the United States, pointed out that the wrongs suffered by the persecutees could not be completely redressed "but in all decency they must be faced and dealt with without evasion and subterfuge. A recovery built on a disregard of these obligations would be false and would constitute an omen of future disaster." He also called on the Germans not to deny all responsibility for the crimes of the Nazis, although he said that no one wished to accuse all the Germans with responsibility for them.

96 JEWISH REFUGEES ARRIVE IN GERMANY FROM SHANGHAI; WILL REESTABLISH RESIDENCE

MUNICH, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Ninety-six Jewish refugees from Shanghai who arrived in Germany this week for resettlement today reached Munich, Berlin, Hamburg and Dusseldorf, where they hope to reestablish themselves.

Thirty-one of the refugees were flown from Frankfurt to West Germany in U.S. Air Force planes. The repatriation trip from the Far East to Frankfurt lasted three months.

RETURN OF JEWISH WAR ORPHANS FROM NON-JEWISH FOSTER HOMES PROCEEDING UNSATISFACTORILY

LONDON, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The return of Jewish orphans in Holland from non-Jewish foster homes in which they were placed during the war to Jewish institutions or families is not proceeding satisfactorily despite a recent law adopted by the Netherlands Government, it was revealed here today by Dayan I. Grunfeld. Dr. Grunfeld will report on the situation tomorrow at a meeting of the Commission on the Status of Jewish War Orphans, which will be presided over by British Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie.

Rabbi Grunfeld stated that of some 800 cases of Jewish orphans in foster homes whose return was requested by the Dutch Jewish community only about 200 were settled satisfactorily, while some 400 children were left in non-Jewish foster homes to be raised as Gentiles. An additional 190 cases are still pending, he revealed. He said that the conference tomorrow would appeal to rabbis throughout the world to bring the matter to the attention of the United Nations.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN VIENNA UNITE TO FIGHT REVIVING ANTI-SEMITISM, NEO-FASCISM

VIENNA, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Jewish communities of the major cities in Austria have united to fight the rise of neo-fascism and anti-Semitism in this country.

At a conference held here of representatives of the communities of Vienna, Graz, Innsbruck, Linz and Salzburg, it was decided to form for this purpose a central body representing all Jewish communities. This body is to hold regular meetings every third month.

Wilhelm Krell, general secretary of the Vienna Jewish community, addressing the conference, called upon the Jews to fight every new manifestation of anti-Semitism. He also reiterated the Jewish demand for national legislation making anti-Semitism a punishable crime.

WASHINGTON ANALYZES JEWISH SITUATION IN USSR; CONGRESSIONAL RECORD PUBLISHES RESULTS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- An analysis of the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union was published in the Congressional Record today. It indicated an obvious trend of anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist sentiment within the U.S.S.R. The analysis was prepared by Prof. Sergius Yakobson, chief of the Foreign Affairs Section of the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress.

Professor Yakobson traced the development of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union since the early 1930's, including the suppression and Russification of Jewish cultural life and the liquidation of Jewish influence in the government.

Anti-Jewish excesses developed when Jewish evacuees returned after the war to their homes in war-devastated regions of Russia, Professor Yakobson established. "The recent war years, the time of terrible hardships in Russia, strengthened furthermore the anti-Semitic sentiments in various Soviet quarters," he reported. "They even revived the old accusation of dodging active military service in spite of the fact that Soviet Jewry ranked fourth among the national groups receiving Soviet military decorations."

The Library of Congress official pointed out that a total of 123,822 Jewish Red Army fighters and war workers received the Order of Lenin, Order of the Red Banner, Medal of the Patriotic War, and other Soviet honors. "It may be said that the current attitude of the Soviet Union toward the Jews has many of the characteristics of traditional anti-Semitism which can hardly encourage or terrify the Russian Jews into resigning themselves to spend the rest of their days in the Soviet Union under a dictatorship," Prof. Yakobson said.

The Professor, who is considered an authority on Birobidjan, observed that "it is hardly to be expected that the future settlers of Birobidjan will be Jewish. Much speaks against it." The Jewish mass migration to Birobidjan is considered a failure by Prof. Yakobson.

Discussing the relations between the Soviet Government and Israel, Prof. Yakobson said: "Although it has recognized and entered into diplomatic relations with Israel, the Kremlin is determined not only to prevent the Jews in the Soviet Union from emigrating to the new state, but even from supporting or manifesting their sympathy with their friends in Tel Aviv." He cites a number of articles in the Soviet press in support of this statement.

PAROLED SILVER SHIRT LEADER MAY FACE IMPRISONMENT IF NORTH CAROLINA OF OLD SENTENCE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- William Dudley Pelley, leader of the Silver Shirts who was paroled yesterday after serving about half of a fifteen-year wartime sedition sentence, may be imprisoned in North Carolina where a two-year prison sentence is still hanging over him, it was learned here today.

Pelley was convicted in Asheville, North Carolina, in 1935 of violating state laws governing securities dealings. The judgment was affirmed in 1942 by the North Carolina Supreme Court, but the state made no effort to invoke the sentence then because Pelley was under indictment in Indiana where he was subsequently sentenced by a Federal District Court. He served his sentence in the Terre Haute Penitentiary.

JEWISH FEDERATION LEADERS CALL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL ISRAEL FUND IN U.S.

SEATTLE, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The Jewish communities of America must plan "intelligently, realistically and well in advance" if they are to continue their unprecedented achievements in behalf of Jewry overseas, in Israel and at home, Julian Freeman, vice-president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, declared here at the three-day conference held by the CJFJF Western States Region, which concluded today.

Speaking before more than 200 delegates, representing 10 western states as well as Western Canada, Mr. Freeman pointed out that to achieve additional accomplishments in 1950, the Jewish communities must recognize that all Jewish problems are basically intertwined and indivisible.

"We must plan and act so that we will be addressing ourselves to the total local picture--the total national picture--the total overseas picture--for they are all parts of the same picture," he continued. "Thus, we can no longer rest content with moving from emergency to emergency. The time has come to anticipate our problems before they become aggravated. We must prevent them from becoming critical; and we must plan for them as early as possible." The delegates adopted a series of resolutions designed to serve as guideposts for Jewish Welfare Funds in meeting future responsibilities.

A major resolution approved by the delegates called for the establishment of a central Israel budget and fund. The communities were urged to implement this resolution by consulting with local organizations interested in the philanthropic needs of Israel, and that the wishes of the communities be called to the attention of the national and Israel agencies involved.

Other resolutions emphasized: 1. Right of local communities to determine allocations and campaign goals. 2.- All national and overseas agencies should consult the communities in advance on questions which are of direct concern to the communities so that they can more effectively coordinate planning and budgeting to avoid confusion. 3. Communities should be furnished with more detailed information on expenditures, services and future programs of agencies so they can make equitable allocations. 4. Urgent need for communities to obtain cash to meet U.J.A.'s immediate obligations.

In reviewing the efforts of American Jews to rescue the remnants of European Jewry, to aid in the upbuilding of Israel and to bring to America tens of thousands of refugees, Mr. Freeman stressed that these achievements were made possible through unified and unprecedented support of Jewish Welfare Funds. He emphasized that along with these successful overseas endeavors, American Jewry maintained and developed Jewish communal institutions and services at home. Raphael Brandes of Tucson, was elected 1950 president of the CJFJF Western States Region, succeeding Marcel Hirsch of San Francisco.

YEMENITE JEWS IN ISRAEL REJECT JEWISH AGENCY BAN ON RAISING FUNDS IN UNITED STATES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The Association of Yemenite Jews today announced at a press conference that it has rejected a decision of the Jewish Agency prohibiting the conducting of an independent fund-raising campaign in the United States for the benefit of Yemenite Jews in Israel.

Revealing that so far they have raised \$75,000 in the United States, the leaders of the Association said that they are prepared to consider the possibility of discontinuing the independent campaign provided the Jewish Agency reaches an agreement granting a permanent allocation from the Agency's budget for the specific needs of the 100,000 Yemenite Jews now living in Israel.

SECURITY ADMINISTRATOR EWING PREDICTS RECESSION OF ECONOMIC CAUSES FOR ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- "With the United States progressing toward greater social security, toward more and better education, toward better physical and mental health, it is inevitable that the economic causes for anti-Semitism will recede," Oscar R. Ewing, Federal Security Administrator, declared here today at a luncheon tendered in his honor by the American Association for Jewish Education. He was presented with a Certificate of Merit by the organization.

Mr. Ewing emphasized that he believes that "anti-Semitism, like all other unreasonable and dangerous complexes, stems partly from economic and partly from emotional causes." More than 100 Jewish communal leaders were present at the presentation of the certificate to Mr. Ewing for his leadership "in the fight for the betterment of the lot of the common man," an "ardent worker in the field of education," and as an "emissary of good will from the people of the United States to the people of Israel."

Michael A. Stavitsky, president of the Association, referring to Mr. Ewing's recent visit to Israel, said: "The common bond between the Jews of America and the Jews of Israel lies in our common cultural and religious heritage, our interest in Jewish education. The effectiveness of Jewish education in the United States will depend to a large extent on the effectiveness of Jewish education in Israel." Mr. Ewing, he pointed out, has given considerable aid to education in Israel by making available a team of American educators who will spend several months in that country studying its problems and advising its educational authorities.

Accepting the citation, Mr. Ewing pointed out that the problems of education in Israel are in a large measure similar to the problems that education has had to face in the United States. "In a single classroom it is sometimes possible to find children from 25 different countries. The educators of Israel have a gigantic job on their hands.

"Many of Israel's problems have not yet been solved," Mr. Ewing continued, "but if anyone can solve them, the people of Israel can. There is an atmosphere of pioneering that would be recognized by any of our old timers who saw the American West spring up from wilderness almost overnight. It seemed to me that the people of Israel considered themselves to be waging a war against time that was even more desperate than their struggle for independence. I think they will win that war."

U.S. CENSUS DIRECTOR LAUDS JEWISH STATISTICAL BUREAU FOR ITS DATA ON JEWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The role played by the Jewish Statistical Bureau in compiling data on the Jews in the United States was praised by Dr. Philip M. Hauser, Acting Director of the U.S. Bureau of Census and American delegate to the Commission on Statistics of the United Nations, at a luncheon here tendered by the board of directors of the J.S.B. in his honor.

Dr. Hauser stated that the U.S. Bureau of Census "relies almost exclusively on the Jewish Statistical Bureau and its director, Dr. H.S. Linfield, as the only authentic source representing every segment of the Jewish people in America." Sylvan Gotshal, who presided at the luncheon, assured Dr. Hauser that the Jewish Statistical Bureau "has always cooperated wholeheartedly with the government, and will continue to do so."

Mr. Gotshal called attention to the imminent publication of the first scientifically compiled statistical record in the United States of all Jewish congregations and organizations, and important corollary data. The publication will be titled, "The Jewish Directory," and will be off the press about the middle of the year, he announced.

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