

Tuesday, March 7, 1950

JTA Daily News Bulletin

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

AMERICAN DIPLOMATS START DISCUSSIONS TODAY ON ISRAEL AND OTHER NEAR EAST COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON, March 6. (JTA) -- The attitude of the U.S. Government toward Israel will be outlined to about 50 American diplomats at a meeting scheduled to start tomorrow in Cairo and convoked for the purpose of discussing American policy in relation to recent developments in the Near East. Jefferson Caffery, U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, will preside at the session, which will also be attended by James G. McDonald, American Ambassador to Israel.

It is understood that the U.S. Government is anxious to free itself of political entanglements in the Near East and is determined to concentrate on a policy of giving economic and technical aid to the countries in that part of the world. The State Department seems to have decided to withdraw from Palestine affairs and leave Israel and the Arabs to settle matters between themselves, through direct negotiations if possible.

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO POSTPONE VOTE ON JERUSALEM STATUTE FOR TWO WEEKS

GENEVA, March 6. (JTA) -- The United Nations Trusteeship Council, which is currently on its second reading of a 1948 draft of an international statute for Jerusalem, will complete its consideration of the statute this week, but will then adjourn until March 19 before voting on it, it was learned here today.

Observers here believe that at that time it will be too late for the Council to undertake a discussion of ways and means of implementing the statute before the Council concludes its session on April 6--particularly in view of the fact that the Council has a good deal more business on its agenda besides Jerusalem.

Under its present schedule the Council plans to meet again at Lake Success in the latter half of June. The prevailing opinion among members of the Council is that the body will be compelled at that time to turn back the entire problem of implementation of an international regime for Jerusalem to the General Assembly. These same members believe that at that time the Assembly will reverse itself and will desert the principle of internationalization.

However, there is a feeling among the delegates from the Catholic countries that the Assembly will reaffirm, more strongly, its views in favor of an international trusteeship. These delegations are already preparing themselves for what they call "the decisive battle of Jerusalem."

Today's discussion centered about the provision in the draft statute dealing with the rights of citizens of Jerusalem under the proposed regime. The existing formula states that all residents of Jerusalem shall have the right to vote and be elected members of the city's legislature.

Iraq, opposing this, suggested that only citizens of Jerusalem and members of the Christian religious institutions be given the vote. Thus, residents of the city who opt for Israel or Transjordan citizenship--and most are expected to fall into this category--would be disenfranchised.

The French then proposed a compromise--the establishment of a 36-member legislature, divided equally among Jews, Christians and Moslems.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON NON-AGGRESSION TALKS WITH TRANSJORDAN REQUESTED IN KNESSET

JERUSALEM, March 6. (JTA) -- A motion requesting a parliamentary debate on the negotiations which are now going on between Israel and Transjordan reportedly for a five-year non-aggression pact between the two states was introduced today in Parliament by the Herut deputies.

It is understood that the government is not as yet prepared for a full dress debate on this subject. Members of the praesidium of the Parliament told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they will inquire at the Foreign Ministry whether such a debate is advisable at this time. Syrian Premier Khaled Bey Azem today told a press conference in Damascus that the Syrian Government may close its frontiers with Transjordan should an Israel-Transjordan non-aggression pact be concluded, Reuters reported in London.

The British-controlled Near East Arab Radio today said in a broadcast heard in Tel Aviv that King Abdullah's desire for peace with Israel is due to his conviction that both countries will benefit from a stabilization of the situation between them.

EX-MUFTI CHALLENGES TRANSJORDAN KING'S RIGHT TO SPEAK FOR ARABS ON JERUSALEM

GENEVA, March 6. (JTA) -- Haj Amin el Hussein, the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, today challenged the right of King Abdullah of Transjordan to speak for the Palestine Arabs on Jerusalem. The challenge was contained in a telegram addressed to Roger Garreau, president of the United Nations Trusteeship Council, which is now considering the internationalization of Jerusalem.

The ex-Mufti, long-time political foe of the Transjordan monarch and currently allied with Egypt in the internal political squabbles of the Arab world, said: "Transjordan does not represent the views of the Moslem and Christian inhabitants of Jerusalem. Their views can only be ascertained by a free plebiscite covering both residents and refugees."

EGYPT REPORTED MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR MILITARY OFFENSIVE AGAINST ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, March 6. (JTA) -- Egypt is making preparations for a lightning air attack on Israel preliminary to an over-all offensive, it was reported today in Davar, organ of the Histadrut, which generally reflects the government's views.

The report, which is not officially confirmed, said that Egypt would justify its aggressive action on the grounds that she was "preventing the strengthening of Israel." The paper revealed that combined maneuvers by the Egyptian and British Air Forces were carried out recently along the Suez Canal and noted that Egypt recently occupied the islands of Sanafar and Tiran in the southern part of the Gulf of Aqaba.

The article also drew attention to the fact that the Israel-Egyptian mixed armistice commission was to have held a joint celebration marking the conclusion of the first year of the armistice between the two countries, but that this celebration was suddenly canceled without explanation. The dispatch noted unconfirmed reports that Egypt has strengthened its armed forces in the Gaza coastal strip, after receiving a large amount of military equipment from England.

KNESSET EXTENDS REGULATIONS DEALING WITH CONTROL OF ABANDONED PROPERTY IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 6. (JTA) -- Emergency regulations dealing with the control of abandoned property in Israel, which expired at midnight yesterday, were today extended by the Israel Parliament until March 31.

BRITISH-CONTROLLED ARAB RADIO PRAISES IRAQ DECISION TO PERMIT EMIGRATION OF JEWS

TEL AVIV, March 6. (JTA) -- The British-controlled Near East Radio today praised the Iraq Government's decision to permit Jews to leave the country if they renounce their Iraqi citizenship. The broadcast, monitored here, said the action was "a very wise one."

Commenting on the Iraq announcement that Jews would be permitted to leave the country within a period of one year, Davar, Labor newspaper, declared today that the situation imposes a heavy responsibility on the state of Israel and on all Zionist and Jewish organizations throughout the world. It pointed out that this is an opportunity to save thousands of Jews from "oppressive exile" and that the short time allowed for the operation must not be wasted.

The state of Israel must offer a haven to the Iraqi Jews and the Jewish community of Israel and its Zionist bodies must do everything possible to overcome the difficulties in the path of their absorption in Israel, Davar added. Jewish organizations throughout the world must help facilitate the emigration of Iraqi Jews and must assist them in getting their property out of the country, the newspaper added.

ISRAEL WILLING TO GRANT FOREIGN CONCESSION FOR BUILDING OF TEL AVIV DEEP-SEA PORT

TEL AVIV, March 6. (JTA) -- The Government of Israel is ready to grant contracts for the construction of a deep-sea port at Tel Aviv to foreign corporations on a concession basis, Minister of Communications David Remez announced last night in an address at the opening of the Maritime Club here.

Asserting that the government's chief target at present consists of developing the port of Haifa, Mr. Remez indicated that Israel does not have sufficient capital for a large-scale program at Tel Aviv's port. If investors can be found abroad to construct a deep-sea port at Tel Aviv, the Israel Government is ready to open negotiations, he said.

MAPAM NATIONAL PARLEY DISCUSSES QUESTION OF ENTERING CABINET; THREE PROPOSALS OFFERED

TEL AVIV, March 6. (JTA) -- The possibility of the Mapam Party joining the present coalition Israel Cabinet was discussed here last night at the concluding session of a two-day closed meeting, attended by 300 delegates from Mapam branches throughout the Jewish state.

It is understood that three principal proposals were submitted to the Mapam conference. One was offered by Israel Galilee, who commanded the Palmach striking force during the Palestine fighting. Mr. Galilee recommended continuation of the present negotiations between the Mapam and the Mapai, but also urged cancellation of the present government wage-freeze. He also demanded that the Mapam retain its right to criticize the government's foreign policy. A second proposal urged cessation of the present Mapai-Mapam talks, while still another suggestion was a compromise closer to Mr. Galilee's proposal.

STATE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO DEFEND ARAB STATES' REARMAMENT AS "DESIRABLE"

WASHINGTON, March 6, (JTA) -- The State Department still considers it "desirable" that Arab states should be "generally strengthened for defensive purposes," Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., of Massachusetts was informed today in a letter from Assistant Secretary of State Jack K. McFall.

Writing for Secretary of State Dean Acheson, McFall said that "an analysis of information available to the Department indicates that no party to the Palestine dispute is making serious preparations to renew hostilities."

3/7/50

BUCHAREST COURT IMPOSES VARYING PRISON SENTENCES ON RUMANIAN WAR CRIMINALS

BUCHAREST, March 6. (JTA) -- A Bucharest court of professional judges and "lay assessors" today imposed a sentence of 25 years at hard labor on Ian Anastade, former lieutenant in the Rumanian police, who was convicted of war crimes. The defendant was also deprived of his civil rights and his property was ordered confiscated. During the war Anastade was in charge of a police company operating in Rumanian-occupied Russia and was accused of massacring a number of Jewish residents in the area.

Vasile Ungureanu, of Bukovina, was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment and loss of civil rights because he conducted a campaign of "terror against the Jewish population" in 1940 and 1941. Nicholas Dumitru, a former member of the Iron Guard, was sentenced to ten years imprisonment for "forcing Jewish shopkeepers to surrender their goods to him at gunpoint."

POLISH OFFICER SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR DENOUNCING JEWS TO GESTAPO DURING OCCUPATION

WARSAW, March 6. (JTA) -- Adolf Hominsky, an officer in the Polish Army, was sentenced to death here today for denouncing Jews to the Gestapo during the German occupation of Poland. It was established at the trial that in 1940 he served as a Gestapo informer, systematically reporting on Jews after extorting large sums of money from them.

EAST GERMAN PRESIDENT, DEPUTY PREMIER RECEIVE CHIEF RABBI OF BERLIN

MUNICH, March 6. (JTA) -- Wilhelm Pieck, President of the East German Republic, and Otto Nuschke, Deputy Premier of his government, this week-end received Chief Rabbi Steven S. Schwarzschild of Berlin and Julius Meyer, president of the Federation of Jewish communities of the Soviet zone of Germany.

The subject of the conference was the providing of rabbinical services and assistance for Jews in the Soviet zone, both residents and prisoners. Rabbi Schwarzschild, an American citizen, said that the atmosphere during the parley was friendly.

JEWISH AGENCY OFFICIAL IN VIENNA SEEKS REORGANIZATION OF ZIONIST BODIES IN AUSTRIA

VIENNA, March 6. (JTA) -- Reorganization of the Zionist Organization in Austria is necessary, Franz Jambor, newly-appointed Jewish Agency director for Vienna, said here today. Formation of a group comprising all Zionist bodies in Austria is desirable, he stated.

Well over one-third of the 144,000 refugees resettled from Austria to other countries during the two-and-a-half years of the operation of the International Refugee Organization up to Dec. 31, 1949 were accepted by Israel, it was announced here today.

During that period Israel, which accepted more refugees from Austria than any other country, admitted 59,530. During the year of 1949 the Jewish state admitted 10,535 displaced persons from here.

DR. MODIANO ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF FRENCH JEWRY

PARIS, March 6. (JTA) -- Dr. Vidal Modiano, president of the Union of Sephardim in France, was elected president of the CRIF--Representative Council of French Jewry--today. A leader in the French section of the General Zionist movement and a member of the executive of the World Jewish Congress, he succeeds Judge Leon Meias, who was elected honorary president.

CONFERENCE OF JEWISH COMMUNAL LEADERS IN ITALY LAUNCHES A UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

ROME, March 6. (JTA) -- Italian Jewry this week-end launched a United Palestine Appeal campaign at a meeting here attended by Jewish communal leaders from all parts of the country.

Among the delegates at the parley were all chief rabbis of Italian cities, representatives of all communities, Raffaele Cantoni, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, and Astore Meier, president of the Italian Zionist Federation, who presided over the meeting.

NON-ZIONIST RELIEF GROUPS IN ARGENTINA DISSOLVE THEIR FUND-RAISING ORGANIZATION

BUENOS AIRES, March 6. (JTA) -- The dissolution of the Ayuda, the fund-raising arm of the J.D.C., World Jewish Congress, HIAS, OET and OSE in Argentina, was announced here today, following an agreement among the beneficiaries of the organization, who are now receiving their funds directly from the united campaign.

Mr. Simon Morelman and Jose Lutzky, president and secretary, respectively, of the United Pro-Israel Campaign, were honored at a dinner arranged on the occasion of their forthcoming trip to Israel. They are proceeding to the Jewish state as official delegates of the United Pro-Israel Campaign.

MIZRACHI WOMEN TO RAISE \$500,000 FOR CHILD AID IN ISRAEL; HEAR PLEA BY DR. GOLDMANN

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- A quota of \$500,000 for emergency aid to Jewish child refugees in Israel was adopted here today at the concluding session of the Eastern Conference of the Mizrahi Women's Organization of America. More than 300 delegates voted the sum for emergency aid after hearing Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency.

Dr. Goldmann, who returned three weeks ago from Israel, warned the delegates that curtailment of immigration "could be the tragic result" if funds from the United States are not increased greatly. He revealed that funds originally earmarked for absorption of new immigrants by the Jewish state were endangered by "the urgent necessity for Israel to spend large amounts of money on rearmament in view of the armament of the Arab states."

Calling for increased American support of the Jewish state, he declared: "The pressure for immigration is building up. Iraq has announced her willingness to let a number of its Jews emigrate; these Jews must be saved now or not at all. The same situation applies to thousands of Jews from Poland and other Eastern European countries and to other thousands from North Africa. The key to Israel's gates no longer rests in the hands of either the Israel Government or the Jewish Agency; it lies in the hands of the contributors to the United Jewish Appeal. And more U.J.A. dollars mean not only more immigrants."

JEWISH BRIGADE LAUDED BY GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA; UNVEILS BARON DE HIRSCH BUST

MONTREAL, March 6. (JTA) -- "There were no better soldiers under my command during the North African campaign than members of the Jewish Brigade and Jewish members of other units," Viscount Alexander, Governor-General of Canada, said at dedication ceremonies for a Jewish community services building.

During the ceremonies he unveiled a bust and a plaque commemorating Baron de Hirsch, noted philanthropist who made possible the Baron de Hirsch Institute housed in the community services building. Among the speakers and guests at the dedication were Cabinet ministers and Jewish community leaders.

3/7/50

RABBI WELLER, SO. AFRICAN JEWISH LEADER, HONORED BY ORT IN NEW YORK; URGES ORT EXPANSION

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- A first-hand report on conditions of Jewish life in South Africa was given here by Rabbi M.C. Weller, leader of South African Jewry and a member of the executive of the World ORT Union, at a luncheon tendered in his honor by the American ORT Federation. Rabbi Weller, now on a visit to the United States, is honorary president of the South African ORT-CSE and is active in many Jewish causes in South Africa.

Rabbi Weller, who recently visited Israel, urged that the ORT coordinate its work in the Jewish state with the programs of the Jewish Agency and the Histadrut. "Israel has had an enormous effect on the growing tendency of Jews to enter industrial trades and agriculture," he said.

The South African Jewish leader, who also surveyed the situation of the Jews in North Africa, stressed that the work of the ORT there must be expanded. "It is very important to send English-speaking Jews to North Africa, to become emissaries to our brothers there, just as the J.D.C. did in Europe," he stated, adding that expanded ORT programs in North Africa, in cooperation with the Joint Distribution Committee, "can materially improve the lot of our people." Israel is in great need of reservoirs of Jews who are healthy in body and capable of doing productive work, he pointed out.

ISRAEL WOMAN LEADER URGES AMERICAN JEWS TO SEND YOUNG PIONEERS TO JEWISH STATE

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- An appeal to the Jews of the United States to send to Israel not only funds and material supplies, but also "trained, healthy pioneers who have the 'know-how' with which to develop the land," was made here today by Ada Maimon, leading member of the Israel Parliament, who arrived here this week-end.

"America must become the reservoir of young blood for Israel, for with its tradition of pioneering and progress, America has imbued its young people with the same spirit of adventure and cooperation which marked the early Palestine pioneer," she said. She will make a two-month tour of the United States and Canada as a delegate from the Working Women's Council of Israel to the Pioneer Women of America.

\$2,000,000 TEMPLE IS DEDICATED IN CHICAGO; ILLINOIS GOVERNOR JOINS CEREMONIES

CHICAGO, March 6. (JTA) -- Sinai Temple here, constructed at a cost of nearly \$2,000,000, was dedicated during the week-end, following a three-day ceremony. Participants included Governor Adlai E. Stevenson, of Illinois; Dr. Abba Hillel Silver; Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and Mayor Martin Kennelly, of this city.

DR. JACOB THON, FOUNDER OF JEWISH NATIONAL COUNCIL IN PALESTINE, DIES; WAS 62

JERUSALEM, March 6. (JTA) -- Dr. Jacob Yochanan Thon, one of the founders of the Vaad Leumi, the Jewish National Council, and chairman of the Jewish Community Council of Jerusalem until its dissolution recently, died here today at the age of 62. He was managing director of the Palestine Land Development Company. A native of Lwow, Poland, he settled in Palestine in 1907.

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