

Tuesday, March 21, 1950

JTA Daily News Bulletin

Published by the JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY - 100 East 41st Street, New York 17, N.Y.

TRANSJORDAN POLICY OF SEEKING PEACE WITH ISRAEL ANNOUNCED BEFORE ARMISTICE BODY

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- "The policy of the Transjordan Government is to try to reach peace with Israel, not to reopen hostilities," Muhamed el Amari Bey, Transjordan member of the mixed Israel-Transjordan armistice commission, declared today. His statement was made after the Israel delegation laid before the body a complaint concerning the murder of two Jewish settlers and the wounding of a third by Arab bandits who escaped into Transjordan-held territory this week-end.

After insisting that his statement be entered in the record, Amari Bey said that his government and the Arab Legion regretted the attack and would attempt to avoid repetition of such incidents. He pledged an investigation and punishment of the criminals if they are caught. In addition he said he would announce in a week measures which will be taken to halt violations of the armistice lines. The Israel Government demanded extradition of the murderers when they were apprehended.

Engineers of the Palestine Electric Corporation in Israel made their first visit to Transjordan several days ago, it was revealed today by the Tel Aviv Newspaper Yedioth Achronoth. The paper said a group of four Jewish engineers inspected the company's plant at Naharayim, on the Transjordan side of the Jordan River and several miles south of Lake Tiberias.

The plant at Naharayim was captured 20 months ago by Jordan troops. The engineers' visit took place on Saturday after special permission was granted by the Amman authorities, but the Israelis declined to disclose the results of their inspection, nor to make any comment at all on their trip.

Yedioth Achronoth recalled that the disposition of the Naharayim plant was included among the topics discussed during the Israel-Transjordan negotiations. Unconfirmed reports said that King Abdullah had agreed to return the plant to Jewish control in exchange for ten years of free electric service for Transjordan.

(The Transjordan radio station in Amman will launch a series of Hebrew broadcasts, according to a dispatch from Jerusalem received today by the London News-Chronicle. The report says the Hebrew programs are the first move towards Transjordan's recognition of the Jewish state.)

Israel Denies Report That Army Plans to Attack Egyptian-Held Territory

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- Arab reports that Israel is preparing for an attack on the Egyptian-held Gaza strip were emphatically denied last night by an Israel Army spokesman.

"Israel is under an armistice agreement with Egypt and she honors her agreements and has no intentions whatsoever of breaking the present status," he stated. The Egyptian Government may be attempting to justify its own feverish military preparations for a second round of warfare, he added.

U.N. CAN PROTECT HOLY PLACES ONLY IF JERUSALEM IS FREE, ISRAEL DELEGATE WARNS

GENEVA, March 20. (JTA) -- The United Nations will be able to protect the Holy Places, religious buildings and religious sites in Jerusalem only if the population of the city is free and independent and its political situation is not disrupted, Aubrey S. Eban, Israel delegate, today told the U.N. Trusteeship Council which began the next-to-the-last week of its current session here.

Mr. Eban also said that his government feels that the Council's conception of what constitutes a Holy Place "goes too far." He added that the U.N. may change its mind with regard to the decision to internationalize Jerusalem. The last remark set off a heated exchange between Iraq delegate Fadhil Jamali and Mr. Eban which ended with the Arab threatening that the U.N. would internationalize the whole of Jerusalem or nothing at all.

ISRAEL WANTS PEACE WITH ARABS ON BASIS OF PRESENT BORDERS OF STATE, BEN GURION SAYS

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- Israel wants to negotiate formal peace pacts with its Arab neighbors on the basis of its present de facto boundaries, Premier David Ben Gurion declared in an exclusive interview reported in the New York Times today from Tiberias. Mr. Ben Gurion disclaimed any intention on the part of the Jewish state to expand into adjoining territory.

He told Cyrus L. Sulzberger, chief European correspondent of the Times, that peace is of paramount interest to Israel because "we must develop the country." Pointing out that Israel now has a permanent contact with Transjordan, the Premier said that he expected that formal negotiations between the two countries would start after the forthcoming elections in the Arab country.

He also declared that the fundamental policy of the Jewish state is one of unlimited immigration, with particular emphasis on admitting Jews who face persecution or future abridgement of their right to emigrate. Asserting that he expects the population of Israel to reach 3,000,000 within ten years, Mr. Ben Gurion stated that the state will eventually be able to support 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 people. He outlined a policy of irrigation in the Negev and development of oil, chemical, textile and metal industries to support a large population.

Former Arab Legion Commander Asks Abdullah's Abdication

The Times also reports from Cairo today that Col. Abdullah el Tel, former commander of the Arab Legion in the Jerusalem area, has charged that King Abdullah of Transjordan is an ally of Israel and intrigued with the Jewish state during the Palestine war. He proposed, according to the dispatch, that the Arab League call on Abdullah to abdicate or accept the status of a constitutional monarch and that he throw off British control of his country and British financing.

The same report pointed out that the issue of relations between Israel and Transjordan is not on the agenda of the forthcoming Arab League Council meeting in Cairo. It stated that if the issue is raised at the meeting, which opens Saturday, it will undoubtedly create a serious crisis.

In yet another Cairo dispatch the Times reported that plans are under consideration by some Arab states--notably Egypt and Iraq--to induce American business concerns to give up projects to establish plants in Israel and open them instead in Arab states.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN GERMANY PROTEST DELAY IN REPAYMENT OF SPECIAL TAXES ON JEWS

MUNICH, March 20. (JTA) -- Jewish communities in West Germany have protested to the Wuertemberg-Baden provincial government against a decision to delay repayment of discriminatory taxes levied on the Jews by the Nazis, it was reported here today.

The provincial finance department recently announced that it would not repay an emigration tax imposed on Jews permitted to flee the country by the Nazis until the Federal Government put into effect the "Equalization of Burden Bill." Nor would it make good a property tax levied by Hermann Goering in 1938 following the assassination of a Nazi diplomat in Paris by Hershe Grynszpan, a Jewish youth, provincial authorities said.

The "Equalization of Burden Bill" is a measure which would tax all persons in Germany, including those entitled to restitution payments, who had not suffered major losses in the war or as a result of the postwar currency conversion. The taxes would be used to assist persons who suffered heavy losses under these circumstances.

Dr. Philip Auerbach, Bavarian Commissioner for Persecutees, today spoke to the West German Parliament in Bonn as a representative of persecutees living in Germany. He criticized the federal legislature for its failure to adopt a restitution measure for all of West Germany.

Dr. Auerbach charged that the government was continuing to pay pensions to former Nazi officials and army officers while former victims of the Nazis were being forced out of public office. He requested priority treatment for persecutees and added that as long as Nazi officials were involved in the government Jews would not participate in it.

RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT ALLOCATES WHEAT FOR MATZOES; RABBIS TO SUPERVISE PROCESSING

BUCHAREST, March 20. (JTA) -- The Rumanian Government has allocated 900 tons of wheat for Passover matzoehs for the Jewish population, it was announced here today. The wheat will be processed in various points throughout the country, and the entire operation will be under the supervision of the rabbinate.

The state alcohol monopoly has prepared large quantities of kosher wine for use during the holiday. All charitable institutions will receive the matzoehs and wine free of charge, while the remainder of the population will pay a nominal fee for them.

TWO FRENCHMEN WHO TORTURED JEWS AND BETRAYED THEM TO GESTAPO GET HEAVY SENTENCES

PARIS, March 20. (JTA) -- Two Frenchmen who were associated with the Gestapo during the occupation were today sentenced to life imprisonment and 20 years at hard labor, respectively, following their conviction on charges of having tortured and betrayed Jews to the Gestapo and having assisted a German spy in France.

One of the convicted men, Raymond Rougery, who received the life term, used to promise Jews in hiding that he would lead them from occupied France to Vichy territory, and then would turn them over to the Nazis for deportation and death. The second criminal, Piorro LaHaye, maintained a torture chamber at Neuilly where Jews and members of the resistance were abused. The two men were originally tried and sentenced to death in absentia, but after they were captured in Germany last year a new trial was ordered.

B'NAI B'RITH PROGRESS IN UNITED STATES AND ABROAD OUTLINED AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA) -- The steady growth of the membership of B'nai B'rith, the expansion of the Hillel Foundations and the work of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League was reviewed here by Frank Goldman, national president of the B'nai B'rith, in an address at the organization's triennial convention now taking place here.

Resolutions urging enactment of President Truman's Civil Rights program and the liberalization of displaced persons legislation were adopted today at the convention. It was decided also to appoint a committee to study the problems and needs of the people of Israel and to request B'nai B'rith lodges to implement recommendations made by the committee.

Mr. Goldman reported that efforts are being made by the organization to rebuild its lodges in many of the 30-odd countries where such units existed before World War II. In certain countries, he pointed out, the governments are opposed to organizations having foreign connections. At present, B'nai B'rith has lodges functioning in England, France, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, Australia, in eight Latin American countries, and in Israel.

Notable progress has been achieved by B'nai B'rith in Israel, where the organization now numbers 30 lodges, of which 10 are in Tel Aviv. "Scarcely a month passes without a new lodge being organized there," the B'nai B'rith president told the delegates.

Anti-Semites No Real Menace in England, British Leader Tells Delegates

Reviewing B'nai B'rith aid to the people of Israel, he reported that B'nai B'rith members contributed more than \$4,000,000 worth of food, clothing, medicine, machinery, automotive equipment, ambulances and tools. This effort was followed by a recreation room program for Israel military hospitals. The two newest rooms were formally dedicated in January 1950, one in tribute to Eddie Jacobson, the other to the memory of Mrs. Martha Truman, mother of the President.

Gordon Liverman, president of the B'nai B'rith Grand Lodge in Great Britain, addressing the convention, asserted that the anti-Semitic, fascist movement in England, while a great irritant, does not constitute a real menace. Mr. Liverman pointed out the behaviour of these organizations, "is a great provocation, not only to the Jews, but to a considerable section of British public opinion, who regard its continued existence as a contradiction of the ideology for which all classes made such unexampled sacrifices in the recent war."

Judge Shalom Kassan, vice president of the B'nai B'rith District Grand Lodge in Israel, and Shalom Dron, Israel secretary, brought greetings from President Chaim Weizmann and said that Premier David Ben Gurion has asked B'nai B'rith to assist in the settlement of immigrants. He reported that lodge members in Israel were taxing themselves one Israel pound each year to relieve the problem. An invitation was extended to all B'nai B'rith members to visit Israel.

Benjamin R. Epstein, head of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, repudiated a news dispatch carried today by a New York newspaper which reported that there was disagreement within the B'nai B'rith on the "Jim Crow" issue, aggravated by trouble at Hillel Foundations at George Washington University, Brooklyn College, and the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Epstein said that the information therein was "a complete fabrication and a lie out of the whole cloth."

PARLEY OF REFORM RABBIS HEARS PROPOSALS TO MAKE JUDAISM A MISSIONARY RELIGION

CINCINNATI, March 20. (JTA) -- Suggestions that Judaism again become an active missionary religion, as it was in the pre-Christian era, were made today at the opening of a three-day Institute on Reform Jewish Theology, held at the Hebrew Union College here under the auspices of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Twenty leading Reform rabbis in the United States and England have prepared studies for this Institute.

Rabbi F.M. Isserman, chairman of the Institute, announced that Rabbi Israel Mattuck, founder of liberal Judaism in England and rabbi of the largest Reform Jewish congregation in the British Empire, encourages Jewish missionary effort. "In a world freer than the present one from religious prejudices, Judaism may well make many converts and it should accept readily any proselytes who come to it with a sincere desire to give it their devotion," Rabbi Mattuck said. Rabbi Albert S. Goldstein of Tremont Temple, New York, agreed with Rabbi Mattuck. "More than all," he said, "we must propagate Judaism through active proselytism. Judaism is no mere tribal cult. It is a universal faith."

On the question of whether there shall be drawn up a definite code of practice for Reform Jews, there was sharp difference of opinion. Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof of Pittsburgh, a former president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, opposed the drawing up of any code of practice. "We Reform Jews," he stated, "should be confident with regard to our form of Judaism. We are developing new customs, experimenting with new types of liturgy. We should not yet surrender the faith in our growth by pessimistically codifying our present practice. Our practice is not worth codifying now. There is not enough even to make the skimpiest of Shulkhan Arukhs."

Arguments For and Against Preparation of Reform "Shulkhan Aruch" Presented

Taking the opposite view, Rabbi William B. Silverman of Duluth, Minnesota, said that he believes there is a "desperate need" for a code to serve as a guide to Reform Jewish practice. "Not a Shulkhan Arukh that implies divine sanction, but a suggested guide that can be used by rabbis and congregations to bring order out of chaos and offer a comprehensive and practical means for the observances of practices, holy days and festivals, that will serve to further the sanctification of God and the sanctification of life," he emphasized. Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn of Long Island stressed that he does not believe a Shulkhan Arukh for Reform Jewish practice is either feasible or possible.

Advocating the preparation of "a kind of a Shulkhan Aruch," in order to give a central unity to the diversity that now characterizes Reform Jewish life, were Prof. Sam Sandmel of Vanderbilt University and Rabbi Jacob P. Rubin of Long Island. "I believe that a corpus could be created which would give us an authority and a unity sadly needed and, at the same time, to be so written as to allow for the freedom and continuing development which are the keynote of dynamic Reform Jewish faith and practice," Rabbi Rubin argued. Prof. Sandmel was of the opinion that "a standard of ritual observance, consistent with ethics and consistent with the age, is needed; that only as Reform Jews will cultivate inwardly outward symbols of religious expression, can Reform Judaism be a vivid and personal experience to Reform Jews."

The statement to be issued at the conclusion of the Institute will represent merely the views of the rabbis participating. It will commit neither the Central Conference of American Rabbis nor any other group. The conclusions of the Institute will be published.

ph

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL RAISES \$2,240,000 IN CASH AT COAST-TO-COAST REGIONAL PARLEYS

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- A total of \$2,240,000 in advance cash to meet the critical need for funds to continue Israel's immigration program and provide for aid to impoverished Jews in other lands was raised yesterday at four regional conferences of the United Jewish Appeal from coast to coast.

The sums contributed at these conferences were in line with the increased giving which has so far marked the initial response to the 1950 United Jewish Appeal drive. The 1950 budgetary requirements of the United Jewish Appeal agencies total \$272,455,800.

An overflow crowd of more than 800 from communities throughout Central New York thronged the Onondaga Hotel in Syracuse, N.Y., where Rep. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., chairman of the National Christian Committee of the United Jewish Appeal, outlined U.J.A. needs. They contributed a total of \$1,000,000 in cash gifts.

At the Syracuse meeting, the conference speakers included Rabbi Israel Goldstein of New York, and Israel Jacobson, who served as director of the Joint Distribution Committee in Hungary until his recent detention and subsequent release by the Hungarian Government. In Paterson, N.J., more than 300 delegates to the Northern New Jersey Regional Conference at the Alexander Hamilton Hotel heard Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency, declare that "Israel has done a remarkable job, but is not yet out of the danger zone." He warned American Jewry that the creation of the state of Israel does not mean that American Jewry's job is finished. "The feeling of solidarity of two years ago must prevail now," Dr. Goldmann said.

The delegates from communities throughout Northern New Jersey also heard Dr. George Josephthal, director of the Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency, describe the plan to move 90,000 Jews of Iraq to Israel in the 12-month period allowed by the Iraq Government for their emigration. It was Dr. Josephthal's first public appearance since his arrival from Israel last week. Joseph Shulman and Nathan Kluger of Paterson served as conference co-chairmen. At the Paterson meeting, a total of \$810,000 in advance gifts was raised.

Representatives from twelve small communities in Northern California and Northern Nevada raised \$225,000 in advance cash gifts at the Northern California Northern Nevada Regional Conference in the Clark Hotel, Stockton, Calif. In the Mid-West, 175 delegates from 20 communities in Illinois and Eastern Missouri gathered at the Leland Hotel in Springfield, Ill., where the total of advance cash gifts for the day reached \$205,000.

RABBI MILTON STEINBERG DIES SUDDENLY; WAS OUTSTANDING SPIRITUAL LEADER OF U.S. JEWRY

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- Rabbi Milton Steinberg, one of the outstanding spiritual leaders of American Jewry, died suddenly today at his home here at the age of 46. Funeral services will be held tomorrow at the Park Avenue Synagogue, where he served as rabbi since 1933.

Born in Rochester, N.Y., he received his degrees from the City College of New York, Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He was an instructor in classical languages at City College before entering the pulpit. For many years he has been a member of the administrative committee of the Zionist Organization of America and of the Rabbinical Assembly of America. He was the author of "The Making of the Modern Jew," "As A Driven Leaf," "Basic Judaism" and "A Partisan Guide to Jewish Problems." He also contributed articles to the general and Jewish press.

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