

Thursday, May 4, 1950

Daily News Bulletin

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LAST MINUTE NEWSWEIZMANN REPORTED TO HAVE SUFFERED HEART ATTACK; WILL NOT ATTEND UNIVERSITY FETE

JERUSALEM, May 3. (JTA) -- President Chaim Weizmann was reported here as having suffered a heart attack this morning. The report described his condition as "rather grave" and said he would not be able to attend the 25th anniversary celebration of the Hebrew University, of which he was a founder. The celebration will take place this week-end. (A later report from Rehovot said the President's condition is "as usual.")

Mayor Daniel Auster of Jerusalem was scheduled to visit the President at his residence in Rehovot and to officially hand over a document awarding him the freedom of Jerusalem. This document, written on special parchment, was to be delivered to Dr. Weizmann in accordance with a decision to this effect taken by the Jerusalem municipality.

ISRAEL EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON SAYS U.S. STILL HAS NOT REPLIED TO ISRAEL'S ARMS REQUEST

WASHINGTON, May 3. (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Israel Embassy today confirmed that the Israel Government has received no final answer from the United States on its application for licenses to purchase defensive arms in this country. (See page 1 for a statement by Secretary of State Dean Acheson.) The Israel official also issued the following statement:

"We are, naturally, gravely concerned as during the past three months, since we first approached the U.S. Government on this matter, Arab rearmament has been moving ahead at a very rapid pace. In that connection, it is very strange to read the alleged claims of military experts that Israel is stronger than the Arab states. While, for example, Israel has been unable to purchase a single jet plane, Egypt during the first three months of 1950 received more than 25, bringing its total to 48 with another 22 ready for delivery. According to such an authoritative source as Winston Churchill, the total number of jet planes to be sold to Egypt is 110.

"Also during this period, although the United Kingdom is under no treaty obligation to Lebanon and Syria, it has been sending new military weapons to those countries, thus completing the ring of armament around Israel. Under these circumstances, we, who are surrounded by armed belligerents, find no defensive armor in the complacency of military experts who say that the Arabs will not attack us. Let the Arabs first make peace before they are given the weapons to resume their war.

"It is clear that peace in the Near East is not promoted by a one-sided policy which places powerful arms at the disposal of the states which went to war to destroy Israel, which still demand that Israel give up some of its territory, which in defiance of international law carry on every kind of economic sanction, such as the closing of the Suez Canal, and which persist in a refusal to make peace with Israel.

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SECRETARY OF STATE DENIES THAT U.S. REJECTED ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR MODERN ARMS

WASHINGTON, May 3. (JTA) -- Secretary of State Dean Acheson today denied published reports that the U.S. has rejected Israel's request for modern arms.

The Secretary said at his press conference that he knew of no such decision by the American Government. He categorically stated that there has been no rejection of the request; hence, the reports were false.

Mr. Acheson explained that all arms requests are considered item by item by various agencies of the government to determine their utility in the defense of the Middle East.

Private sources in the government, however, continued to insist that the request has been definitely rejected. It was said that official government spokesman do not consider it politic to admit to the facts at the present time.

AMERICAN ZIONIST COUNCIL CALLS TWO-DAY PARLEY IN WASHINGTON TO PROTEST ARMING OF ARABS

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- The American Zionist Council, official spokesman for all American Zionist parties, will convoke a two-day national conference in Washington to protest the rearming of the Arab states by Britain and the U.S. government's conduct in this matter, Louis Lipsky, chairman of the organization, announced at a press conference here today. The Washington parley will open on June 4.

In making this announcement, Mr. Lipsky declared that the Council "will use all legitimate methods at its disposal to bring about a reversal of the position taken and maintained by the State Department." To this end the Council will seek the cooperation of all friends of Israel in the United States--Jews and non-Jews alike, he stated.

Mr. Lipsky charged that "for all practical purposes our State Department may be regarded at this time as a partner in a cabal of states" which has its center in Cairo. These states are determined to recover "positions lost in the United Nations" and are interested not in maintaining peace in the Middle East, but in maneuvering for control in the affairs of that area, he declared.

"Our State Department's role," said Mr. Lipsky, "in the struggle for power in the Middle East is becoming increasingly obvious: through its defense of the arming of the Arab states; through its failure to take seriously the recent war council of the Arab League, which has ruled out peace negotiations with Israel by any Arab state; through its attitude of indifference to Israel's request for arms, which has been taken under 'advisement'; and through its constant reassurance that there is no threat to peace in the Middle East."

Mr. Lipsky expressed the Council's view that "the leaders of our foreign policy have been maneuvered into a position of giving Britain the lead in Middle Eastern affairs and of backing to the hilt, without reservation, the anti-Israel policy of the Foreign Secretary of the British Government." It is in protest against this policy that the American Zionist Council is mobilizing its forces and is calling its national conference in Washington, Mr. Lipsky pointed out.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED AND DEFENDED IN PARLIAMENT ON TRANSJORDAN'S ANNEXATION

JERUSALEM, May 3. (JTA) -- A general debate on Transjordan's annexation of the Arab part of Palestine opened in the Israel Parliament today with opposition parties from the right and the left attacking the government.

Leading off for the left-wing Socialist Mapam Party, M. Bar-Yehuda demanded that the Knesset refuse to recognize King Abdullah's move, that it break off negotiations with Transjordan until the annexation is annulled, and that the Israel Government cite the Transjordan move before the United Nations and its Security Council as a threat to the peace of the world, the Near East and Israel.

Mr. Bar-Yehuda charged that "the King of a state which calls itself Jordania announced the annexation and Britain announced her return to Palestine." These acts, he continued, "are signs of the impending third World War which is now in preparation on our shoulders." Other signs, he said, included the British shipment of modern offensive weapons to the Arab states.

The Mapam deputy also criticized the government for its "strange procedure" in not prefacing the debate with a statement of policy. When he finished speaking Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett announced that the government was deliberately withholding its statement in order to first obtain the views of the various parties, but that it reserved the right to enter the debate at any time.

Mapai Deputy Opposes Israel's Territorial Expansion

Right-wing opposition was voiced by Herut Party leader Menahem Beigin who charged the government with encouraging King Abdullah in his annexation move. He asserted that Israel had nothing to gain from the current situation, adding that it could smash Abdullah's army of 15,000 men if he resumed hostilities over Israel's refusal to recognize his territorial acquisition. "If Abdullah's masters are resolved to wage war against us what is the value of a treaty signed with him?" he queried.

An authoritative statement was made for the pro-government Mapai Party by Zalman Aharonovitz, chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, who asserted that "the establishment of an independent Arab state in the rest of Palestine would be an economic parasite on our body, enabling the Mufti to rise to power and strengthening the Arab League and Egypt." He also spoke against expansion by Israel in the direction of the Arab parts of Palestine, warning that "expansion now means the destruction of the Third Temple."

Both Mr. Aharonovitz and Pincas Lubianikser, another leading Mapai member, opposed the Mapam's suggestion that Israel appeal to the U.N. Security Council against Transjordan's move. In this they were supported by Dr. Joseph Burg, representing the Poale Mizrahi.

Yosef Saphir, General Zionist leader, stated that his party is opposed to Abdullah's annexation of Palestine territory and demanded that the Israel Government proclaim that it does not recognize the move. Meir Wilner, Communist deputy, also opposed the annexation.

ISRAEL DENIES REPORTS THAT SPECIAL EXCHANGE RATES ARE OFFERED FOR FOREIGN CURRENCY

TEL AVIV, May 3. (JTA) -- The Israel Government today officially denied reports here and abroad that special exchange rates were being offered for the transfer of foreign currency to Israel. The official statement declared that the Government does not apply any special rates for investment of foreign capital in Israel or for any other purposes.

BRITISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN GERMANY FREE TWO JEWS SENTENCED IN ANTI-BRITISH PLOT

HAMBURG, May 3. (JTA) -- Two Jews who were sentenced to death by a British military court two-and-a-half years ago for attempting to blow up a British troop transport in retaliation for the British policy in Palestine were released today on condition that they leave Germany for Israel within 24 hours. Their death sentences were later commuted to 20 years' imprisonment.

The two will be flown tomorrow from the British zone to Munich from where they will be helped to leave Germany. The British claimed that the two pardoned Jews are members of a Jewish extremist organization which conducted underground operations against Britain prior to the establishment of Israel.

GREECE RELEASES 5 CONDEMNED AND 21 IMPRISONED JEWS; ALL MUST LEAVE COUNTRY

ATHENS, May 3. (JTA) -- The Greek Government agreed to release five Jews who were condemned to death and 21 Greek Jews imprisoned on a Greek island, providing that they renounce their citizenship and leave for Israel.

All of them were convicted by military courts of cooperating with the guerrillas. The negotiations for their release were conducted by Israel representative Asher Moissis with officials of the Greek Ministry of Justice and Foreign Ministry.

JEWISH EFFORTS FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS FAIL AT U.N.

LAKE SUCCESS, May 3. (JTA) -- The United Nations Human Rights Commission voted today to accept the principle of setting up a permanent international body to handle the complaints submitted by states and tentatively decided to include in the forthcoming covenant an article limiting the right of appeal against violations of the instrument to ratifying governments.

In a series of votes, the commission unanimously approved the right of states to appeal against violations of human rights and rejected proposals to permit appeals by non-governmental bodies and by individuals.

Representatives of Jewish organizations had pressed for extension of the right of appeal to individuals. In the voting, India, Uruguay and the Lebanon supported this position. Dr. Charles A. Malik, Lebanon representative, speaking in the Commission, praised the World Jewish Congress and the Coordinating Council of Jewish Organizations for their contribution to the cause of human rights.

Jewish circles regarded the decision to establish a permanent appeals body instead of a system of ad hoc committees, as proposed by Great Britain and the United States, as a victory for their viewpoint.

THREE IRON GUARDISTS SENTENCED IN ROMANIA FOR "SAVAGE EXTERMINATION OF JEWS"

BUCHAREST, May 3. (JTA) -- Three former members of the anti-Semitic Iron Guard organization have been sentenced to heavy prison terms by a Bucharest criminal court which convicted them of "savage extermination of Jews," the Rumanian press announced today. The defendants, Petre Dumitrescu, Petre Olinici, and Costea Gavrilă, all of Radutz, Bukovina, were found guilty of participating in the Legionnaire rebellion of 1941 during which they "tortured the Jews of their town until they expired in the most appalling agony."

U.S. EXAMPLE CITED BY JEWS IN AUSTRALIA IN DEFENDING FOREIGN-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS

MELBOURNE, Australia, May 3. (JTA) -- An attack on the publication of foreign-language newspapers in Australia by S.G. Herron, secretary of the Australian Natives Association, was answered this week by H. Bergner, chairman of the Jewish Writers Group of this country.

Mr. Bergner emphasized that Jews were entitled to publish newspapers in their own language. He declared that "such activity could only enrich Australian, as well as Jewish, culture." There is no conflict, he added, between being a good Jew and discharging the responsibility of Australian citizenship. The United States has shown, Mr. Bergner stated, that to "permit the publication of foreign-language newspapers was no obstacle to the development of American literature and traditions."

BRITISH CAPTAIN WHO FLED PALESTINE DENIES HE IS ANTI-SEMITIC; SAYS HE WISHES ISRAEL WELL

JOHANNESBURG, So. Africa, May 3. (JTA) -- Roy Alexander Farran, who was accused of killing a Jewish youth when he served as a captain in the British forces in Palestine prior to the establishment of Israel, says in a letter published in the South African Jewish Times that he wishes Israel well. He also denied that he is anti-Semitic.

The former British captain fled Palestine after he was threatened with revenge by underground Jewish groups. In London, a package addressed to him was opened by his brother, who was killed by a bomb concealed in the parcel. Farran, who delivered anti-Semitic speeches during the British elections in which he unsuccessfully sought a seat in Parliament, returned here after the election campaign. He has been living here in self-imposed exile since the death of his brother.

HONG KONG JEWISH COMMUNITY TURNS OUT EN MASSE TO COMMEMORATE HEROES OF WARSAW GHETTO

HONG KONG, May 3. (JTA) -- The 300-member strong Hong Kong Jewish community turned out en masse to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising and the simultaneous launching of a drive in behalf of the Keren Hayesod.

Memorial services for the 35,000 Jews who died in the battle were held in the local synagogue and, later, in the Jewish Club. After services local Jewish leaders spoke of the activities supported in Israel by the fund and a film was shown on the reconstruction activities financed by the drive.

BRITISH JEWS COMMEMORATE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

LONDON, May 3. (JTA) -- The seventh anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising was commemorated here last night at a meeting called by the World Jewish Congress and the Federation of Polish Jews and attended by leading representatives of the major Jewish organizations in Britain.

Among the speakers were: Sidney S. Silverman, M.P., who presided; Dr. Abraham Cohen, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews; Joseph Rosenzaf, chairman of the Liberated Jews of the British zone of Germany; and, Eliezer Yapou, representing the Israel consulate.

WORLD CONFERENCE OF AGUDAS ISRAEL IS POSTPONED TO DECEMBER; WILL BE HELD IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, May 3. (JTA) -- The worldwide conference of the Agudas Israel organization has been postponed to December 12 and the meeting will be held in Israel, it was learned here today.

The Agudah-sponsored World Rabbinical Council has been reorganized under the Presidency of Rabbi I.Z. Meisler. The Council will act as the central rabbinic authority on all "problems of policy and discipline."

CONDUCTOR OF ISRAEL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA RESIGNS; WANTED TO DIRECT U.S. TOUR CONCERTS

TEL AVIV, May 3. (JTA) -- Paul Paray, conductor of the Israel Symphony Orchestra, resigned today and will not participate in the tour arranged for the orchestra in the United States next year. His resignation is due to a conflict which developed over who should conduct the orchestra's 60 scheduled concerts in the United States.

M. Paray, a Frenchman, insisted that as the permanent musical director of the orchestra he should conduct an appreciable number of concerts, especially in the major American cities. However, the promoters of the American tour insisted that the concerts in the major cities be conducted by Sergei Koussevitsky and Leonard Bernstein.

NEW JERSEY SYNAGOGUES COLLECT 50 TORAHS FOR PRESENTATION TO SETTLEMENTS IN ISRAEL

NEWARK, May 3. (JTA) -- New Jersey Governor Alfred Driscoll addressed a meeting here tonight marking the formal presentation of 50 Scrolls of the Law to Israel. The Torahs, collected from synagogues throughout New Jersey by the state region of Hapoel Hamizrachi, will be used in new settlements and villages in the Jewish state.

One of the Scrolls--donated by the Beth David Jewish Center here--comes from Germany and was first used in the middle 1700's. A refugee who brought the Torah to the U.S. in 1936 died aboard ship. The Scroll, along with the rest of his personal belongings, remained unclaimed in the New York customs house for some time. The Torah was later bought at auction and presented to Beth David.

BRANDEIS YOUTH FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR JEWISH YOUTHS

BOSTON, May 3. (JTA) -- Brandeis Youth Foundation announced today that scholarships for the Brandeis Camp Institutes for the current season are now available to eligible young men and women between the ages of 18 and 25.

Dewey S. Stone, newly-elected president of the Foundation, said the organization is offering additional scholarships this year. "We welcome applications from young people who have proven their leadership ability or who can furnish proof of their leadership potential," he stated.

ALBERT GREENFIELD ELECTED PRESIDENT OF JEWISH STATISTICAL BUREAU; GOTSHAL BOARD CHAIRMAN

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- The Jewish Statistical Bureau, a national organization for the collection and compilation of statistics of American Jews, today announced the election of Albert M. Greenfield as its president. Sylvan Gotshal was named chairman of the board of the organization, which is financed by voluntary contributions and works under the auspices of the National Council for Statistics of Jews.

ABRAHAM ASSCHER, DUTCH JEWISH LEADER, DIES AT 90 IN AMSTERDAM

AMSTERDAM, May 3. (JTA) -- Dr. Abraham Asscher, Dutch industrialist, Jewish communal leader and one-time political figure in pre-war Holland, died here today at the age of 90.

During the war Dr. Asscher and Prof. Dirk Cohen established a Jewish Council in Holland, on orders from the Nazis. After the war the communal leader, who had been awarded Royal decorations by the Netherlands Government and honored by the city of Amsterdam, was arrested by the Amsterdam authorities on charges of having collaborated with the Nazis. The government never followed through on his trial.