

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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ISRAEL ROKACH RE-ELECTED MAYOR OF TEL AVIV; WINS POST WITH SUPPORT OF HORUT VOTE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Mayor Israel Rokach was today re-elected to head the city administration. He received 19 votes, an absolute majority of the ballots cast in the new municipal council.

Mayor Rokach's re-election was made possible by the conclusion of a coalition agreement among the centrist General Zionists, who are headed in this city by Mr. Rokach, the rightwing Horut party and the representatives of various religious groups and the single councillor of the Landlord's Party. Yesterday, when Mayor Rokach failed to receive more than 15 of the 16 votes needed for election, the Horut had abstained.

The Horut and the Orthodox Bloc were each assigned one Deputy Mayor. The Horut representative is M. Cohen, while the Orthodox deputy is A. Pikas.

Meanwhile, the Jerusalem and Petach Tikvah municipal elections have been postponed by the inability of the religious groups to agree among themselves and by their failure to arrive at an agreement with the rightwing parties. In Jerusalem, the Mizrahi faction refuses to deal with the Mapai because the Labor Party has a pact with the leftwing Socialist Mapam.

ISRAEL WILL INVEST \$5,000,000 OF U.S. LOAN IN EXPLOITATION OF NEGEV MINERAL RESOURCES

TEL AVIV, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Israel's Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan this week-end announced that \$5,000,000 of the new loan which Israel expects to get from the United States will be invested in the development of "Negov minerals."

A company to develop natural resources in the Negov is now being established. The management includes Major General Yaacov Dori, former Army Chief of Staff and now head of the Scientific Board at the Premier's office; Ossip Blumenfeld, president Weizmann's brother-in-law and director of several French chemical firms; and representatives of Israel's Treasury Department and of the Jewish Agency.

The Planning Branch of the Premier's Office has a plan for construction of a large harbor in the southern part of Israel near Migdal Gad, it is reported in Davar, pro-government daily newspaper.

HAROLD STASSEN TO CONFER TODAY WITH ISRAEL PREMIER AND FINANCE MINISTER

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Harold Stassen, Republican Party leader and President of the University of Pennsylvania, is expected to confer tomorrow with Israel Premier David Ben Gurion and Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan. Mr. Stassen, who arrived here yesterday to attend the Christmas mass services at Bethlehem, left here this morning for Tel Aviv.

JORDAN PARLIAMENT TO QUESTION ARAB OFFICIALS WHO NEGOTIATED RHODES PACT WITH ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The Jordanian Parliament has decided to hail before it for questioning all Jordan "officials responsible for signing the Rhodes armistice agreement with Israel," the Arab newspaper, Addifa -- published in the Jordan-held Old City of Jerusalem -- said today.

Reporting on the Jordan Parliament's debate of the issue, Addifa said that one deputy, Abdul Fatah Darwish, urged Jordan to revoke the armistice pact with Israel, claiming that the document was "little different from the Balfour Declaration."

Meanwhile, the Israel-Jordan mixed survey commission operating in the Negev returned to Jerusalem this week-end following the completion of its on-the-spot investigation of the demarcation line on the road which leads to Eilat. After establishing the exact location of the disputed area, subject of a clash between Jordan and Israel armed forces, the Jordanian members of the survey commission refused to continue the marking of the frontier when they noticed that a small stretch of land hitherto in Jordan's possession actually belonged to Israel. The entire matter will be referred to the mixed armistice commission for clarification.

U.N. truce chief Gen. William Riley declared in a Christmas message that "considerable progress in the direction of peace between Israel and the Arab countries has been made during the concluding year." He emphasized that with the "world facing a crisis, it behooves all of us -- Arabs and Israelis and U.N. representatives -- to strive in all ways possible during the coming year to find a satisfactory solution to the very difficult problems facing us in the Near East."

EGYPT REPORTED EXTENDING BLOCKADE OF ISRAEL TO GULF OF AKABA; CHALLENGE BRITISH SHIP

LONDON, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Egypt is extending its blockade of Israel to the Akaba Gulf, on the Red Sea, it was reported today in a dispatch from Amman, capital of Jordan, which was published in the Daily Telegraph.

The report said that Jordan Government officials learned from the captain of a British ship that the Egyptians have installed a shore battery near the tip of the Sinai Peninsula, at the entrance to the Gulf of Akaba. The British captain reported that his ship was signalled from the shore when it entered the Gulf and was asked for details of the ship's port of clearance and authority.

ZIONIST YOUTH DELEGATES FROM ALL PARTS OF U.S. ATTEND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL PARLEY

ATLANTIC CITY, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Three hundred delegates representing Zionist youth groups throughout the United States gathered here this week-end at a special national educational conference designed to afford young Zionists a "well-grounded picture of the Zionist Organization of America's role" in the contemporary Zionist scene.

Addressing the delegates, Avraham Harman, director of the Israel Office of Information, lauded the part which American Jewry has played in helping to bring about the establishment of the state of Israel. Other speakers included Benjamin G. Browdy, Z.O.A. president; and Jacques Torczyner, president of the Manhattan Zionist Region. Dr. Emanuel Neumann, former Z.O.A. president, told the delegates last night that "nothing is more important for the future of the Zionist movement in the United States than the influx into its ranks of young people, bringing with them the idealism, enthusiasm and freshness of youth."

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70,000 IRAQI JEWS APPLY FOR ISRAEL MIGRATION; 25,000 EXIT VISAS APPROVED BY GOVERNMENT

LONDON, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Seventy thousand Jews in Iraq have registered for emigration to Israel while 25,000 of the applications for exit permits have been approved by the Iraq authorities, a Baghdad report received here today stated.

Iraqi authorities are reported to have refused to accept further bids for emigration from Jews who wish to go to any countries besides Israel. It was also reported here that the rate of Israel-bound Jewish emigration from Iraq has been decreasing recently.

ISRAEL FARM WORKERS PLEDGE INCREASED PRODUCTION; WILL AID IN SWAMP DRAINING

TEL AVIV, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- A resolution pledging to increase agricultural production in order that Israel may reach economic independence was adopted here today at the closing session of the annual conference of the Agricultural Workers Council. The resolution pointed out that in view of the tense international situation and the continuing flow of immigrants the Jewish state must achieve independence.

The conference pledged its assistance to the Jewish National Fund project of draining the vast Hula swamp in northeastern Israel and reclaiming the land for agricultural settlements. The J.N.F. project, which will get under way as soon as the winter rainy season ends next spring, will reclaim some 15,000 acres of land.

ISRAEL JUDGE SENTENCES NETUREI KARTA MEMBER TO THREE MONTHS FOR EVADING MILITARY DUTY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Hayim Steinberg, a member of the extreme Orthodox group Neturei Karta, was sentenced today by District Court Judge M. Witkin to three months imprisonment on the charge of evading service in Israel's Army.

Pointing out that international law does not conflict with Israel's rule over areas under its control, the judge said: "The existing regulations concerning military service do not discriminate between Orthodox and non-Orthodox persons eligible for service." Steinberg argued that he was unaware of the conscription law, explaining that "as a matter of principle he does not read any newspaper, or other publications, not even posters."

CONSTELLATION PLANE MAKES FIRST DIRECT NEW YORK-ISRAEL FLIGHT; SERVICE STARTS IN APRIL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The first direct New York-to-Israel flight by a Constellation plane, the "Mazel Tov," which is owned by the Israel national airline, EL-AL, was completed here. The airliner, the first Constellation acquired by EL-AL, was greeted upon its arrival at Lydda by a number of high officials, including David Romez, Minister of Education.

Mr. Romez said the plane will begin a full schedule of flights between New York and Lydda in April. The flight takes 22 hours.

BODIES OF SIX ISRAEL AIRMEN KILLED IN CRASH WASHED ASHORE IN EGYPTIAN TERRITORY

TEL AVIV, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The bodies of six Israel soldiers killed in an airplane crash off the Palestine coast last Monday, have been turned over to Israel authorities by Egyptian soldiers after being washed ashore just south of the demarcation line inside Egyptian-controlled territory near Gaza. A search is continuing for the bodies of two Israel soldiers still missing in the crash.

AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT ASKED TO EXTEND AMNESTY TO ALL NAZIS SERVING PRISON TERMS

LONDON, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The Austrian Parliament has been asked by a representative of the neo-Nazi Union of Independents Party to extend a general amnesty to all Nazis now serving prison sentences, to cancel all current proceedings against Nazi defendants and to reinstate Nazi officials who were suspended in 1945, a report reaching here from Vienna said today.

The same report also revealed that the Allied Control Council ordered the "Oesterreichischer Beobachter," organ of the National League, to suspend publication for the next two months because it disseminated Nazi propaganda.

Meanwhile, police raids on Jewish homes for alleged black market violations are continuing in Austria. Last week 20 Jewish DP's were arrested in the vicinity of the Rothschild Hospital in Vienna -- which is used as a displaced persons transit center. A Kosher restaurant in the center of Vienna was also raided. Vienna newspapers devoted considerable space to reports of the arrests of two Jews who were accused of sending books to Israel and Rumania without first complying with regulations governing foreign currency exchanges.

40,000 DISPLACED JEWS ENTERED U.S. UNDER DP IMMIGRATION ACT. HIAS PARLEY HEARS

FRANKFURT, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- A two-day conference for HIAS representatives from Germany, Austria and Italy, held during the week-end, heard a report that 40,000 Jewish displaced persons left Germany for permanent resettlement in the United States under the terms of the Displaced Persons Act. An additional 14,000 Jews are still awaiting admission, the report stated.

Max Newman, HIAS European operations coordinator, told the meeting that large families seeking entry to the U.S. have been held up as a result of the new Internal Security Act. Procedural delays have continued for as long as 44 weeks, he added.

(Isaac L. Asofsky, HIAS executive director who arrived in New York by air last night from the conference, said that world conditions made it imperative that 150,000 Jewish DP's be resettled "in the shortest possible time." Mr. Asofsky, who completed a month-long tour of Israel and Europe, said he had instructed HIAS European representatives to "go all-out in effort and expense to rescue these people to new homes.")

JEWS OF BAVARIA PROTEST APPOINTMENT OF EX-NAZI TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT POST

MUNICH, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Jewish communities in Bavaria today protested the appointment of Prof. Theodor Oberlander as Secretary of State for Refugees because of his "notorious Nazi background." The protest said that Oberlander, who became a member of the Bavarian Government in the recent provincial elections, had been a Nazi Party member since 1934 and was also a high-ranking Storm Trooper.

Meanwhile, Jewish communities in western Germany have warned J. Arthur Rank, British film producer of the movie "Oliver Twist" -- which has been labelled anti-Semitic -- that if he plans to release the film in Western Germany they will be compelled to institute a boycott against the picture.

3,000 PERSONS ATTEND MEMORIAL SERVICES IN PARIS FOR JEWS MURDERED AT OSWIECIM CAMP

PARIS, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Three thousand persons participated in a ceremony today at a memorial honoring the victims of the Oswiecim concentration camp. The ceremony marks the ninth anniversary of the execution of 100 hostages, including 48 Jews. Participants in the rites vowed opposition to the rearmament of Germany.

AMBASSADOR McDONALD TO REPORT TO WASHINGTON FOR FORMAL RELIEF FROM HIS DUTIES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- James G. McDonald, retiring American Ambassador to Israel, will report to the State Department within a few days to be formally relieved of his duties. He returned to the United States during the week-end.

SIDNEY WEINBERG, NEW YORK BANKER, NAMED TO HIGH POST IN OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Sidney J. Weinberg of New York, a former vice-chairman of the War Production Board, has been appointed special assistant to Charles E. Wilson, director of the new Office of Defense Mobilization.

A World War I navy veteran, Mr. Weinberg is on leave from the New York investment banking firm of Goldman, Sachs & Co. of which he has been a member since 1927. President Truman awarded him the Medal of Merit in 1946 for his services during World War II.

The Senate, by an overwhelming voice vote, has confirmed Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg as Assistant Secretary of Defense. The only Senator who voted against Mrs. Rosenberg was William Langer, Republican of North Dakota, who announced that he would vote against all Presidential nominations because no one from North Dakota had been appointed to high Federal office for 61 years.

CANADIAN MINISTER PRAISES CANADIAN JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE'S AID TO IMMIGRANTS

TORONTO, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Assistance to new immigrants given by the Jewish Labor Committee of Canada was termed "a model of social rehabilitation," by the Canadian Minister of Labor, Milton F. Gregg.

"I am impressed by the work your Committee has been doing, especially as it applies to the great task of eliminating racial prejudice and discrimination within Canada," the Minister said, addressing a J.L.C. gathering in Toronto. "I wish to thank you for your support in the DP movement and to congratulate you in your efforts to bring about tolerance among the races of Canada."

The Jewish Labor Committee has helped 3,876 Jewish immigrants to reach Canada. With the cooperation of the Canadian Jewish Congress, the noodle trades unions and the employers in the noodle trades industries, it has been possible not only to bring in these Jews, but also to provide adequate housing and employment for them.

INDIANA JUDGE REFUSES TO EXTRADITE POLLEY TO NORTH CAROLINA; ANTI-SEMITE FREE

NOBLESVILLE, Indiana, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- For the first time in almost a decade the notorious anti-Semite William Dudley Polloy was this week-end free from jail or threat of imprisonment.

An Indiana judge ruled that Polloy need not return to North Carolina to face imprisonment for violation of a suspended sentence imposed following his conviction of having violated the state's security laws. Polloy was arrested earlier this year by Indiana authorities on the request of the North Carolina government. He was arrested immediately following his release from a Federal penitentiary where he served half of a 15-year sentence for sedition. The former Silver Shirts leader is 59.

