

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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ISRAEL AND ARAB DIPLOMATS BRIEFED BY STATE DEPARTMENT ON KOREAN SITUATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- A briefing on the Korean war situation was given today by the State Department to the Israel charge d'affaires, Moshe Keren, following similar briefings held by the Department yesterday for diplomatic representatives of the Arab countries.

Today's briefing was conducted by George C. McGhee, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, with the participation of Livingston T. Merchant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, and G. Louis Jones, the head of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs.

Mr. Keren described the meeting as "a briefing on the Korean situation and the general situation in order to exchange views on the present situation between friendly governments in a very general way." He added that he was informed about Far Eastern problems.

The Arab diplomats who were briefed yesterday were invited to the State Department in a group. They included diplomatic representatives of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Iraq.

Stanton Griffis, American Ambassador to Egypt during the Arab-Jewish war, who later became associated with anti-Israel propagandists in the Holyland Emergency Liaison Program, a pro-Arab movement, was named today by President Truman as Ambassador to Spain. He holds membership in the executive committee of H.B.L.P. After serving in Egypt, he was Ambassador to Argentina.

U.S. EXPORT-IMPORT BANK SAYS NEW LOAN WILL IMPROVE ISRAEL'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- The Board of Governors of the Export-Import Bank today issued a statement declaring that the new \$35,000,000 loan--"in addition to Israel's investment of its own funds in the rehabilitation and expansion of citrus culture"--should result in an improvement of Israel's foreign exchange position by materially increasing its major export.

The Bank said that in the discussions which preceded the granting of the credit, Israel provided a general outline of its development and financing plans. The new credit will bear interest at the rate of three-and-one-half percent per annum and is to be amortized over a period of 15 years.

Oscar Gass, economic adviser to the Israel Embassy, said that Israel intends to start using the new Export-Import Bank credit at once. He indicated that the U.S. Treasury Department, Export-Import Bank, and high American officials are thoroughly in accord with Israel's plan to offer bonds to the American people soon.

EGYPTIAN WAR MINISTER DISMISSES REPORTS ON ISRAEL TROOP CONCENTRATIONS NEAR GAZA

LONDON, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Mustafa Nosrat Bey, Egyptian War Minister, said in Cairo today that Israel troop concentrations reported opposite Gaza, which the Egyptians hold, constituted "no danger to Egypt," Reuters reported.

He described the reports, which estimated Jewish troop concentrations at 40,000, as "grossly exaggerated." There were undoubtedly troops in that area, he said, "but they do not have the character which recent reports attributed to them." The Egyptian Government and army were constantly on the alert and watching for any emergency, he added.

FIRST POST OFFICE OPENED IN EILAT; HOPE TO DEVELOP CITY INTO LARGE TRADE CENTER

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- The first post office in Eilat, southernmost point in Israel, was opened today in the presence of Dov Joseph, Minister of Communications. Speakers at the dedication ceremony expressed the hope that Eilat, which lies on the Gulf of Aqaba, will soon become one of the most important harbors of the Jewish state, linking East and West, and will develop into a flourishing trade center.

With the opening of the post office, there will be regular connections between Eilat and the rest of Israel by mail, telegraph and telephone. A special issue of a new series of postage stamps marked the inauguration of the Eilat post office.

TURKEY AND ISRAEL DRAW TOGETHER; SEEK TO ACT AS BALANCING INFLUENCE ON ARAB LEAGUE

BOSTON, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Turkey and Israel, the two eastern Mediterranean countries outside the Arab orbit, are fast drawing together in what seems to be a second Middle Eastern bloc, to act as a balancing influence on the Arab League, the Christian Science Monitor reports from Ankara.

"This practical association, particularly evident in the past few weeks by military, economic, and cultural contacts, has the support of British and American diplomats in the Near East, who would like to see Arab League influence neutralized and the balance of power maintained in the eastern Mediterranean," the report says.

The recent visit to Ankara of Col. Moshe Deyan, commander of Israel forces in the Arab-Israel war, and his meetings with Turkish military civilian chiefs, have led observers to believe that the two non-Arab republics of the Middle East are preparing the blueprints of a military alliance, the Monitor's Ankara correspondent states. Although no official reason was given for this visit, reliable sources say the military talks were dictated by current strategic considerations and may lead to a signed agreement, he points out.

"Such an alliance, Western sources hope, will help restore stability in this vital, strategic region. It may even be joined by Iraq and Jordan--most pro-British of the Arab states--after they have signed a peace pact with Israel," the report says. It emphasizes that "the Turkish-Israel drawing together is not only considered a natural tendency in Middle Eastern strategy; it is intended to meet the economic needs of both countries."

The report says that Israel is using Istanbul as a base for indirect trade relations with Arab countries. "Reliable sources recently disclosed that a large quantity of a certain small mechanical gadget marked 'Made in Turkey' had been exported to that country from Israel, to be later re-exported to Arab countries as Turkish products," the report states, adding that "the economic alliance between Israel and Turkey has in part neutralized the effect of the economic boycott and blockade of Israel by its neighbors."

TRIAL OF ARRESTED J.T.A. AND ASSOCIATED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS TO START IN RUMANIA

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- The trial of two Jewish journalists who represented the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and the Associated Press, respectively, in Rumania and who have been held by the Rumanian authorities under arrest for several months, will start within a few days--possibly even today--in Bucharest, according to a report from the Rumanian capital published today in Davar, Israel's leading newspaper.

The two journalists are Marcel Fohme, who represented the J.T.A., and Leonard Kirshen, the A.P. correspondent. Both are charged with treason and espionage, according to the report, and will be tried by a military tribunal.

It is not known as yet, the Davar report says, whether the trial will be public, or whether it will be held in camera. However, it is understood that the proceedings will set a precedent for the forthcoming trial of a number of Zionist leaders who have similarly been held under arrest in Rumania for several months.

Jews in Turkey Plead for Respite of One Year from Discriminatory Tax Levy

ANKARA, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- A group of Jews who were victims of the 1942 Turkish law which imposed special taxation on the Jewish population, leading to the bankruptcy of numerous Jewish firms, today submitted a petition to parliament asking that they be freed from the payment of a year's taxes.

Most of these Jews were forced to liquidate their businesses and were deported to labor camps on the charge of non-payment of the special tax imposed because they were Jews. Although they were kept in labor camps for more than a year, the Turkish authorities levied the special tax on them even for that year.

Since their return home from the camps, many of these Jewish victims have been hounded by the authorities for the payment of the back taxes, which amount to tens of thousands of dollars for some individuals. Protests lodged with the former government brought no results. In their petition today, made public in the Turkish press, the Jews argue that they could not pay a tax on income which they did not receive since they were held in the labor camps during that year.

Berlin Community Today Honors Germany's Oldest Jew; Was Held in Nazi Camp

BERLIN, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Germany's oldest Jewish citizen, Philipp Falkenstein, will be honored by the Berlin Jewish community at a special ceremony here tomorrow on his 100th birthday.

Falkenstein, a glazier, spent several years in a Nazi concentration camp in Austria. He now lives in an institution in Berlin's French sector. The 93rd birthday of Frau Dora Lachmann, who claims to be the oldest German Jewess, will also be celebrated at tomorrow's ceremony.

Istanbul Jewish Community to Hold Elections; First Changes in 20 Years Expected

ISTANBUL, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Jewish communal elections will be held next month in Galata, the center of Istanbul where two-thirds of the city's 37,000 Jews reside, it was announced here today.

The present members of the Jewish communal council have remained in their posts for the last 20 years. It is believed that the elections will bring into the council new and younger elements.

ISRAEL MINISTRY EXPLAINS LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS ON FOOD PARCELS; WARNS ORGANIZATIONS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- The Ministry of Agriculture made it clear today that the lifting of all restrictions on sending gift food parcels to Israelis from abroad applies only to parcels sent by individuals and not by public institutions whose funds are destined for Israel.

The sending of food parcels by public institutions of the latter category is considered harmful for the planning of imports and would hamper the work of insuring ample food supplies for the entire population of the Jewish state, it was indicated.

NETZ ZIONIST CONFERENCE SEEKS TO UNITE ZIONIST PARTIES IN SINGLE DRIVE FOR ISRAEL

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- The annual conference of the Dutch Zionist Federation, which opened here during the week-end with delegates from 26 cities representing Labor Zionist, Mizrahi, General Zionist, WIZO and youth groups in attendance, concluded today with a resolution urging Zionist groups in Holland to refrain from conducting separate fund-raising efforts and support instead the United Israel Appeal campaign.

Another resolution instructs the Dutch delegates to the 1951 World Zionist Congress--scheduled to be held in Jerusalem in July--to propose the establishment of a "United Zionist Federation" in each country which would function as a "roof organization" for various parties. The latter, under terms of the resolution, would be permitted to continue functioning, but the leadership of the proposed federation would not be based on party considerations.

RELIGIOUS LABORITES IN BRITAIN URGE UNITY IN RANKS OF HAPOEL HAMIZRACHI IN ISRAEL

LONDON, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- An appeal for unity within the ranks of the Hapoel Hamizrachi movement in Israel was issued here at the closing session of a conference of the religious laborite movement in Britain. The appeal said that the "fragmentation of Hapoel Hamizrachi in Israel into factions is a development inimical to the interests and progress of the entire religious cause in Israel."

The conference also approved a resolution expressing non-confidence in the Jewish Agency's Department of Education and Culture and warned that it will oppose "with all the means at our disposal any attempt to influence Jewish religious education in this country."

"HOME RULE" PLAN FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES IN ISRAEL IS OFFERED BY INDEPENDENT GROUP

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- A three-member independent committee here sent a proposal to the Israel Government yesterday which is designed to preserve religious freedom in Israel while at the same time providing a "fertile ground" for the nurturing of historic Judaism. The plan, based on the doctrine of "home rule," was forwarded to the Israel Government by Supreme Court Justice Samuel H. Hofstadter, Col. Harold Riegelman and Jacob M. Dimmes. All three are experts in the field of public law.

Under the proposal, Moslem, Christian and Jewish communities in Israel would be empowered to enact their own local restrictions regarding religious observances. "The principle of home rule," the memorandum says, "may provide a solution to the problems of the nature and extent of any additional safeguards of Jewish traditions in accordance with the wishes of a majority of the residents in each of the local communities."

AMERICAN ORT ISSUES 1950 REPORT; CONTRIBUTED \$1,100,000 FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING ABROAD

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- About 23,000 students attended ORT schools in Europe, North Africa, Iran, Israel, China, Latin America and the United States during 1950, according to a report issued here today by Dr. William Haber, president of the American ORT Federation. The American ORT contributed \$1,100,000 during 1950 for the support of the overseas vocational training installations of the organization, the report said.

Since 1947, the American ORT Federation has received its funds for ORT schools in Europe, North Africa and other areas through special agreement with the Joint Distribution Committee. A total of \$6,400,000 has been sent overseas by the American ORT in this period. Negotiations are now in progress between the American ORT Federation and the J.D.C. for the consummation of an agreement for the coming year.

"The picture of vocational training operations has been sharply altered in the course of the past year," the report stated. "The training conducted in the DP camps no longer dominates the work of the organization as hitherto, due to the continued closing of camps and the migration of thousands of former DP's to Israel, the United States and other countries.

"The decline in students has not been as great as anticipated in Germany and Austria, however, because of the continued influx of Iron Curtain refugees who are in dire need of training. ORT operations in Eastern European countries have ceased entirely along with those of all other international relief and rehabilitation organizations," the report revealed. "In Italy, while the work among the DP's has considerably diminished, it has been found necessary to extend operations among the children of local, poverty-stricken Italian-Jewish families."

The first ORT trade school was established in Teheran this fall, according to the report. There is an ORT carpentry school for Kurdish Jews in a camp near Teheran and a machine shop in the city itself has been set up. Plans for future instruction include agriculture and masonry, both of which are in great demand in Israel to which most Iranian Jews expect to immigrate. In French North Africa, the expansion of activities is notable from the standpoint of student enrollment and expansion of courses, the report stressed; 1,923 students attended schools in Algeria and Morocco. A school is also under construction in Tunisia and will soon be opened.

Almost 2,000 students attended schools in 13 cities and villages of Israel during the year under report. Among the achievements of ORT during the current year is the establishment of the first refrigeration mechanics schools at Givatayim. The Israel ORT is about two years old and most of its courses are long-term. However, the report points out that 293 pupils have completed ORT courses and received graduation certificates. Most of these are now employed at their respective trades, making a contribution to the upbuilding of the nation and being self-sustaining citizens, many of them for the first time in years.

SAMUEL SCHNEIERSON RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF 129-YEAR-OLD JEWISH CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Samuel S. Schneierson was re-elected president of the Jewish Child Care Association of New York and will head the organization during the 129th year of its services to underprivileged children, it was announced today.

More than 51,000 boys and girls from homes temporarily disrupted by unfortunate circumstances have received care away from their own homes in the modern institutions and foster homes maintained by the Association.