

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

WEIZMANN EXPECTED TO ENTRUST BEN GURION WITH FORMATION OF NEW ISRAELI CABINET

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- President Chaim Weizmann today completed preliminary talks with leaders of the various political parties in Israel in an attempt to bring about the formation of a new coalition cabinet without resorting to general elections. He is expected to entrust Mr. Ben Gurion with the task of forming a new cabinet.

"The world at large," he told the leaders of the political groups, "will not understand us and will be greatly surprised if we hold elections now." The President appealed to the party leaders to solve the Cabinet crisis in a way which would permit the present government to continue its work "in face of the grave international complications and the internal political and economic difficulties."

Although the leaders of almost all the major parties indicated to President Weizmann their preference for holding new general elections, it is taken for granted that the Cabinet which resigned last week will serve as a "caretaker Cabinet" until new elections are held. Should this be the case, a compromise may still be reached between the Mapai and the Religious Bloc--which together form a majority in the parliament--before the projected elections take place.

It was pointed out here today that it must take at least three months to prepare for new elections. Within three months, it is believed, Dr. Weizmann's suggestions for a compromise may still find their way into acceptance. Both the Mapai leaders of the Religious Bloc are reported to have indicated to Dr. Weizmann their agreement to have the present Cabinet serve as an "interim Cabinet." However, the Religious Bloc stipulated that no personal changes be made within the Cabinet.

The coming days in the parliament will show what course the various parties will take. Meanwhile, Rabbi Mordecai Nurok, speaking on behalf of the Religious Bloc, told President Weizmann that his group may agree to the solution of the present crisis without holding elections, considering the present difficult situation which the country faces. A Mapai spokesman told representatives of the press that his party will insist that the outgoing government continue as "caretaker cabinet" until after the national elections.

STRIKE IN ISRAEL'S METAL INDUSTRY ENDED; WORKERS RETURN TO 260 FACTORIES TODAY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- The strike in Israel's metal industry which closed down 260 metal plants for two weeks and left 7,000 workers unemployed, was ended tonight. The workers will return to the factories tomorrow morning.

Settlement of the protracted dispute, which had closed down a number of plants prior to the closing of all when wage negotiations broke down, was reached after government intervention. The Manufacturers Association agreed, in negotiations with the Histadrut, the Jewish Labor Federation, today, to a 14 percent wage increase. The strike was estimated to have cost Israel's economy more than \$100,000 a day.

BRITISH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN MIDDLE EAST ARRIVES IN ISRAEL TO CONFER WITH GOVERNMENT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- General Sir Brian Robertson, British commander-in-chief in the Middle East, arrived at Lydda International Airport this morning for a brief visit during which he will confer with members of the Israel Government. He was received today by Premier David Ben Gurion.

"There is no need to imagine mysterious reasons for my visit," Gen. Robertson told newsmen at the airport. "I have already visited several Middle Eastern countries and in due course I shall visit all of them. Relations between my government and the Israel Government are friendly. We can both take pleasure in that fact.

"It would be far more mysterious if I did not visit Israel alone among the countries who are concerned, like ourselves, in the peace and security of the Middle East," he continued. "I certainly did not come here," Gen. Robertson declared, "to suggest that Israel should do anything she does not regard as in her own best interests."

ISRAEL MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE LEAVES U.S.; ACQUIRED \$30,000,000 WORTH OF FOODSTUFFS

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Israel will be provided with food for several months as a result of the visit paid to the United States by its Minister of Agriculture Pinhas Lavon, who returns this week to the Jewish state.

Mr. Lavon told a press conference here that he has secured basic foodstuffs in this country for Israel valued at about \$30,000,000. Part of the products, he said, was purchased by him with the help of funds obtained through Jewish organizations while the major portion was obtained on credit.

The Israel Minister also revealed that during his stay in this country he negotiated with the U.S. Government on the granting of priority to certain foodstuffs which are to be shipped to Israel. He also discussed with government officials on how the United States can help Israel to obtain further supplies of such basic commodities as wheat, fodder, sugar and edible fats.

TEL AVIV MAYOR SUBMITS \$28,000,000 BUDGET TO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL; \$16,800,000 MORE SOUGHT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- A ten-million-pound budget (\$28,000,000) for the coming fiscal year was submitted to the Tel Aviv Municipal Council today by Mayor Israel Rokach. Half of the anticipated expenditure, the mayor reported, would go for education, health and social welfare.

In addition to the regular budget, Mayor Rokach introduced a six-million-pound (\$16,800,000) special development budget for public works, housing and water supply for the Greater Tel Aviv area which includes Jaffa and some outlying suburbs. Loans totalling 4,200,000 pounds have already been arranged against this expenditure and a government grant-in-aid of 500,000 pounds is expected.

Against the regular municipality budget, Mayor Rokach reported tax and licensing fees would bring in revenues of 6,000,000 pounds and he anticipated government subsidies of 2,225,000 pounds. Tel Aviv, the mayor reported, now has 325,000 inhabitants and 17,000 houses excluding Jaffa with a total of 130,000 rooms. Its 145 schools now have 42,000 pupils and school attendance is expected to increase to 50,000 next September.

S. COURT IN GERMANY HOLDS REICH RESPONSIBLE FOR RETURN OF NAZI-CONFISCATED PROPERTY

FRANKFURT, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- The U.S. Court of Restitution Appeals in Germany today ruled that people who have been deprived of their property under the Nazi regime may obtain a judgment against the German Reich for restitution.

The decision was handed down in a case involving a restitution claim for the recovery of a mortgage on certain Frankfurt real estate confiscated by the Nazi regime. The claim was filed by a Jewish woman, Mrs. Martha Kaufman, who now resides in Scotland and her two children, Mrs. Margot W. Goldsmith and Dr. Erich G. Kaufman.

In holding the German Reich liable for this claim, the U.S. court did not specify the legal successor to Hitler's government as to liability for its debts since the question was not raised. However, it emphasized that the German nation never ceased to exist despite unconditional surrender and four-power occupation.

Jewish leaders here consider the decision of the American court as highly important in view of the fact that a substantial proportion of individual Jewish restitution claims as well as claims presented by the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization runs into millions of dollars. These claims involve confiscations made by the Nazis, in the name of the German Reich, of bank accounts, mortgages and other assets held by Jews under the Nazi regime.

U.S. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN GERMANY DISCUSSES RESTITUTION PROBLEM WITH JEWISH LEADERS

FRANKFURT, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- United States High Commissioner John J. McCloy received representatives of Jewish organizations to discuss the problem of restitution of Jewish property seized from its owners during the Nazi regime.

The Jewish delegation was composed of Dr. Nahum Goldmann, head of the American section of the Jewish Agency executive and president of the World Jewish Congress; Moses Bechelman, European director of the American Joint Distribution Committee; Benjamin Ferencz, director-general of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization, and Max Kreuzberger, of the Jewish Agency.

GERMANS SHOUT "HANG THE JEWS" AT ANTI-SEMITIC DEMONSTRATION IN MUNICH

MUNICH, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Anti-Semitic demonstrations marked the meeting here of the "Protective Association of German Soldiers," an organization led by ex-Col. Ludwig Guembel, a member of Adolf Hitler's old guard. Cries of "hang the Jews" and "oust the Jews" were heard at the meeting. Socialist members of the Bavarian Parliament said today that they would raise the question in Parliament.

Desecration of the Jewish cemetery at Schwerte on Ruhr was revealed here today with the news that the authorities there had instituted criminal proceedings against a group of youths charged with the vandalism. According to the report, 21 tombstones were overturned, two monuments smashed and all floral decorations destroyed.

HOUSE PASSES BILL PROVIDING FOR ADMISSION OF "NOMINAL" NAZIS INTO THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Legislation was enacted in the House today and there was a move in the Senate toward a more lenient policy toward Nazis and fascists.

A bill which was passed by the House would admit persons who were "nominal" Nazis or fascists if they joined at an early age or if they became members to obtain employment or for similar reasons. Meanwhile, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved legislation to compel the Justice Department to take a more lenient attitude toward admitting "nominal" Nazis.

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE ADOPTS \$1,400,000 BUDGET FOR 1951; HELD RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Feb. 19. (JTA) -- The annual conference of the Jewish Labor Committee concluded here last night with the adoption of a budget for 1951 of \$1,400,000. Adolph Held was re-elected chairman of the organization.

Addressing the closing session, Harry N. Rosenfield, member of the United States Displaced Persons Commission, said that the problem of Jewish displaced persons in Europe is nearly solved. He urged the United States to admit "tens of thousands" of displaced persons, emphasizing the contributions they can make to the Labor Markets, the culture and the economy of the country.

Jews IN BRAZIL PLAN FORMATION OF CENTRAL REPRESENTATIVE BODY. DR. SCHWARZBART REPORTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- Progress in establishing a centralized representational working organization of Brazilian Jewry was reported today by Dr. I. Schwarzbart, member of the executive and director of the Organization Department of the World Jewish Congress, upon his return from a mission to Rio de Janeiro.

Dr. Schwarzbart revealed that a conference of delegates of the federations of Jews in Brazil's two biggest cities--Rio and Sao Paulo--is to be held this Spring to plan again the formation of such a national Jewish organization. Pointing out that the 120,000 Jews of Brazil form the second largest Jewish community in Latin America, the W.J.C. leader stressed the importance of such an organization from the viewpoint of both Brazilian Jewry itself and of Jewry the world over.

AMERICAN GROUPS BUILD TIRE FACTORY IN ISRAEL; SHIP CONSTRUCTION STEEL, MACHINERY FROM U.S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- The S.S. Tel Aviv sails today for Haifa carrying construction steel, pipe fittings and machinery for a new factory which is being built in Petach Tikvah by the General Tire and Rubber Co. of Akron, Palestine Economic Corporation and other American and Israeli investors.

Barring unforeseen difficulties resulting from present world conditions, the new factory is designed to produce between 80,000 and 100,000 tires in the first year of operation. Truck and automobile tires to alleviate the critical tire shortage in the Israel area should be rolling from the production line of the factory late this year, officials of the General Tire and Rubber Co. announced here today.

GENERAL ZIONISTS IN ISRAEL HOLD IMPRESSIVE FAREWELL MEETING FOR DR. EMANUEL NEUMANN

TEL AVIV, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- More than 1,000 people filled the Mograbi Theater here at a farewell meeting for Dr. Emanuel Neumann, American Zionist leader, arranged by the General Zionist Party. Dr. Neumann urged continued support for Israel irrespective of the repeated Cabinet crisis. "The General Zionists will be ready to accept government responsibility when the nation will call them to office," he told the audience. Dr. Peretz Bernstein, Israeli leader of the General Zionists, presided.

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA TO PUBLISH QUARTERLY MAGAZINE; EDITORIAL BOARD FORMED

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (JTA) -- The establishment of the Zionist Quarterly, a new magazine devoted to the discussion and interpretation of the Israel and American Jewish scenes, World Zionist affairs, and Jewish cultural developments was announced today by Benjamin G. Browdy, president of the Zionist Organization of America. The publication will be edited by Mr. Harold P. Manson, who formerly headed the public relations activities of the American Zionist Emergency Council and the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

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