

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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MOB RANSACKS JEWISH QUARTER IN IRAQ CITY: POGROM ATMOSPHERE PREVAILS IN MANY TOWNS

TEL AVIV, March 21. (JTA) -- Jewish immigrants arriving from Iraq within the last 48 hours told Israel officials and an investigating committee set up by the organization of Iraqi Jewish settlers here that the Iraq Government's law for the sequestration of Jewish property was being enforced with maximum brutality, especially in the provincial towns and villages.

They reported today that a convoy of Jewish emigrants proceeding from Sheikh Herban to Bagdad airport was fired upon. A police escort returned the fire. In the town of Kut, they reported, a mob ransacked the Jewish quarter. The police in the town, the refugees said, conducted a house-to-house search in the Jewish quarter and seized all moveable property. They gave the owners no receipts.

What was described as a virtual pogrom atmosphere, was said to prevail in many provincial towns. The Jews there were said to have shut themselves up in their houses, fearful of provoking attack by appearing in the streets. In many of the towns, it was stated, the local authorities have refused to allow Jews to draw from their frozen bank accounts to buy food for themselves and their families.

The demand that the Jews in Iraq be placed in concentration camps pending their departure for Israel was made in the Iraqi Parliament by Mahadi Kubba, member of the powerful Istiglal Party, the newspaper Davar reported today. Kubba said that internment of Jews was necessary to prevent the Jews from selling their property.

Newly-arrived immigrants told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that Jews about to emigrate were being approached by Iraqis making offers of a fraction of its value for moveable property in Jewish possession. The Alien Property Custodian commission set up by the government has forbidden the sale or transfer of Jewish immovable property and the land registration office has been closed to prevent property transfers.

Planes flying the Bagdad-Lydda airlift are now making two flights daily, carrying 120 immigrants on each flight. The direct run from Bagdad to the Israel airport takes three hours. An American pilot on the run told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the Bagdad airport officials are questioning the pilots as to their nationality.

Two Planes Bring 280 Afghanistani, Kurdistani and Iranian Jews to Israel

TEL AVIV, March 21. (JTA) -- Two planes in the Teheran-Lydda airlift service yesterday brought in 280 Afghanistani, Kurdistani, Iranian and Iraqi Jews from Teheran, Iran. The planes also brought in three ancient Scrolls of the Law.

Iranian Jews here, reporting deteriorating conditions among Iran's 90,000 Jews, called today for increased migration of Jews from that country to the Jewish state.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT "DEPLORES" EGYPTIAN BLOCKADE OF ISRAEL-BOUND TRAFFIC THROUGH SUEZ

LONDON, March 21. (JTA) -- The British Government "heartily deplores" the Egyptian Government's blockade of the Suez Canal on Israel-bound shipping, Foreign Secretary Herbert C. Morrison declared today in Parliament.

Last night, during the sharp debate on the Anglo-Egyptian financial agreement, Conservative deputy leader Anthony Eden made a deep impression on the M.P.'s when he insisted that no concession on oil supplies be made to Egypt. Outlining Israel's many difficulties in foreign exchange and petroleum supply problems resulting from the Suez blockade, Mr. Eden charged that the cutting off of crude oil supplies have reduced the Haifa refineries' operations to one-quarter of capacity, entailing an annual loss of 20,000,000 pounds.

R.T. Paget, Labor M.P., said that this is the time to tell the Egyptians: "Your quarrel with Israel must come to an end." Richard Crossman, another Laborite leader, declared that Britain's only friends in the Middle East are Israel, Jordan and Turkey. Chancellor of the Exchequer Hugh Gaitskill denied that the Egyptian pact was more favorable than the Israeli agreement, pointing out that Israel Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan had thought the Anglo-Israeli agreement generous.

The presence of both Secretary Morrison and former Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin today at a luncheon tendered by Israel Minister Eliahu Elath in honor of a Parliamentary delegation which will shortly leave on a visit to Israel was considered in diplomatic circles most significant in connection with improving Anglo-Israeli relations. Members of the delegation are Glenwill Hall, its head, Lord Samuel, Capt. George Chetwynd, John Henderson, J.H. Hoy, D.F. Vosper and E.B. Wakefield.

THREE NEW INCIDENTS OCCUR ON ISRAEL-JORDAN BORDER; ISRAEL TO COMPLAIN TO MIXED UNIT

JERUSALEM, March 21. (JTA) -- Three new serious incidents have occurred along the Israel-Jordan border, two north of Beersheba and one in the Jerusalem corridor, it was officially announced here today.

Although the Israeli complaints about these incidents have thus far been made only verbally, it is known that Israel intends to raise at the meeting of the Israeli-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission scheduled for late today, Jordan's continued failure to control its border forces. It is learned that the measures which the mixed committee decided to implement in order to avert incidents have not yet been carried out because of the state of unrest on the border.

U.N. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL URGES GERMANY TO MAKE REPARATIONS FOR CAMP VICTIMS

SANTIAGO, CHILE, March 21. (JTA) -- The U.N. Economic and Social Council, at its plenary session here, has adopted a resolution urging the German authorities to consider making the fullest possible reparations for injuries suffered under the Nazi regime by persons subjected to so-called scientific experiments in concentration camps.

The resolution invites the International Refugee Organization and any authority which may succeed it in the administration of reparations funds, and voluntary organizations distributing these funds, to alleviate the plight of these victims. It requests the U.N. Secretary General to report to the next session of the Council on the results achieved.

CONVICTED AUSTRIAN NAZIS TO VOTE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1945

VIENNA, March 21. (JTA) -- For the first time since 1945 Austrian citizens convicted as Nazi party members will be permitted to vote in the forthcoming Austrian presidential elections this May 6. By a law which went into effect last May, convicted Nazis have had the franchise returned to them.

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE PRESENTS PETITION TO U.N. ON SUPPRESSION OF JEWISH LIFE IN RUSSIA

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 21. (JTA) -- The Jewish Labor Committee today petitioned the United Nations to launch an investigation into the treatment of minorities, especially the Jewish people, in the Soviet Union. It asked that the U.N. gather all available information by inviting witnesses to testify at public hearings and to press for immediate cessation of "cultural and spiritual genocide" in Russia.

The petition was presented to Egon Schwellb, acting head of the Human Rights Division of the U.N. Secretariat, by three officers of the J.L.C.: David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Joseph Baskin, general secretary of the Workmen's Circle; and Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee.

Under U.N. rules no action can be taken on the petition by the Human Rights Commission. It will be filed with the Commission, whose members may discuss it in private session when the organ meets in Geneva in April. Also, copies will be sent to the accused U.N. member governments, the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia and Poland.

The petition charged that "in Soviet Russia today there are only a few shreds of Jewish cultural and spiritual life remaining. In the other countries under its domination, the process is rapidly approaching a similar stage." It said "the Soviet campaigns to blot out Jewish cultural life and Jewish identity" violate the U.N. Charter, the Covenant of Human Rights and the U.N. Genocide Convention.

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS SEEK LIBERALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION POLICY; TESTIFY IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, March 21. (JTA) -- The liberalization of the U.S. immigration policy in line with "the principles of humanitarianism and equal rights and the tradition of America as a haven for the oppressed and downtrodden of all lands" was urged today by Judge Simon H. Rifkind, of New York, testifying in behalf of a number of major Jewish organizations before a Joint Congressional Subcommittee holding hearings on pending omnibus immigration bills.

Judge Rifkind expressed strong disapproval of the McCarran immigration proposals. The proposed legislation, he said, is in effect, if not in intent, racially discriminatory and destructive of cherished American traditions of civil liberties. He spoke for the Synagogue Council of America, which represents all rabbinic and synagogical organizations in the United States; American Jewish Committee; American Jewish Congress; Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Jewish Labor Committee; HIAS; United Service for New Americans; and other Jewish groups.

The provisions of the McCarran Bill, chief piece of legislation before the Joint Congressional Subcommittee, contrast sharply with the principles upon which the Jewish organizations consider that good immigration legislation should be drawn. Outlining these principles, Judge Rifkind said that the McCarran Bill, in its present form "would eliminate by far the greater part, perhaps 75 percent, of our quota immigration." He expressed opposition particularly to a section which, he said, arbitrarily assigns 30 percent of all quotas exclusively to parents of adult American citizens, 20 percent exclusively to spouses and children of alien residents, and 50 percent to needed scientists and technicians. "Very few immigrants are ordinarily found in those three categories," he declared.

HOUSE GETS BILL TO HALT FEDERAL AID TO COLLEGES PRACTICING RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

WASHINGTON, March 21. (JTA) -- A bill to halt Federal aid, including G.I. benefits, for colleges which practice religious or racial discrimination was introduced in the House yesterday by Rep. Jacob K. Javits of New York. The bill exempts educational institutions certified as religious or denominational.

ISRAEL ORCHESTRA LEAVES U.S. TODAY; HONORED BY AMERICAN FUND FOR ISRAELI INSTITUTIONS

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra will leave the U.S. tomorrow by plane following the completion of its first American tour embracing 55 concerts in 40 cities. A special dinner-meeting in honor of the Orchestra was given tonight by the American Fund for Israel Institutions.

The dinner also marked the launching of a \$1,965,000 campaign by the Fund for the support of 66 leading cultural, educational and social welfare institutions in Israel, including the Orchestra. A half of this sum is expected to be raised in New York City, Mr. Edward A. Norman, president of the Fund, announced.

A scroll of honor was presented by Mr. Norman for the Fund to the Orchestra. Scrolls of honor were awarded also to Leonard Bernstein and Serge Koussevitsky, co-music directors of the tour, and to S. Burok, tour manager. Israel's Ambassador Abba Eban, in a farewell message, said that the tour "had forged still another link in the solid chain of deepening friendship between Israel and the United States."

A short motion picture on the Orchestra's visit to America, produced by the Voice of America for distribution in Israel, was shown to the guests. This is the first time the State Department has made a film of a visiting orchestra.

HADAASSAH OPENS TWO-DAY CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK; SEEK SPEEDY TRANSFER OF YOUTHS TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- A two-day Hadaassah conference, attended by 600 delegates, was opened here today with a plea to enable thousands of Jewish children from the Moslem countries in the Middle East and North Africa to leave for Israel. Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, national president of the organization, and other speakers stressed the necessity for speed in helping oppressed Jewish youths make their way to the Jewish state.

Addressing the gathering, Leonard Bernstein, the young Jewish composer and conductor, said the simple but compelling dictates of humanity and conscience make it imperative to help speed these young Jewish people on to Israel. This undertaking, he added, will bring gratification not only from a humanitarian point of view, but from a cultural one. "These children will one day constitute a reservoir of talent from which will flow spiritual enrichment to Israel and the rest of the world," he said.

REFORM TEMPLES MARK PURIM WITH GAY CELEBRATIONS; Z.O.A. PROCLAIMS MEMBERSHIP MONTH

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- The Jewish festival of Purim, commemorating the deliverance of Jews of ancient Persia from the massacre planned by Haman, was celebrated here today by the Zionist Organization of America with the launching of a membership month during which the Z.O.A. will mobilize its membership to assist in all aspects of its aid-to-Israel program.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations announced that the 59 Reform temples in New York will mark the holiday with special programs today and tomorrow for adults and children. Colorful pageants, plays and dances will be arranged for children and carnivals and masquerades will climax the celebration.

SEVENTH GENERATION RABBI VOLUNTEERS TO BECOME CHAPLAIN IN U.S. AIR FORCE

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- A seventh generation rabbi, Michell D. Geller of Houston, Texas, today became the first Jewish chaplain to be inducted into the armed forces under the self-imposed draft system of the Rabbinic Alumni of Yeshiva University. The 25-year-old rabbi was sworn in as an Air Force Chaplain First Lieutenant in ceremonies at the University here.

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