

## DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

SYRIAN TROOPS FIRE ON JEWS IN HULEH AREA; CONFLICT OVER DRAINAGE OF SWAMPS WIDENS

JERUSALEM, March 27. (JTA) -- Syrian forces today again opened fire on Israeli workers engaged in draining the Huleh swamp, in northeastern Israel, wounding one Jew.

Despite the intermittent fire from the Syrians throughout the day, the Israelis continued to operate their tractors and speed the work of swamp drainage and land reclamation of land. The Israelis worked while special police forces from positions on the western bank of the Jordan River returned the fire of the Syrian troops on the eastern shore.

United Nations observers, who entered the demilitarized zone between the two forces today to investigate Syrian charges of Israeli violation of no-man's-land, themselves came under Syrian machine gun fire, but suffered no casualties. The Syrians charged that two Israeli mortar shells had exploded near a Syrian outpost. U.N. sources here expressed doubt that Israel military personnel had entered the demilitarized zone in violation of the terms of the armistice agreement.

A meeting of the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission is scheduled for tomorrow. Meanwhile, an official announcement here revealed that the meeting of high military officers on the Israeli and Syrian General Staffs, which took place yesterday at the Syrian frontier, concluded "without results." The meeting, held under the chairmanship of a United Nations official, discussed possible changes in the Israeli-Syrian armistice pact, as well as the conflict over the drainage project.

Huge American excavators are being used in digging the drainage canals. Lake Huleh, whose level will be lowered when the project is completed, is situated in northeastern Israel and its eastern shore borders on Syria. Israeli agricultural authorities estimate that the reclaimed area will increase the value of Israel's food crop by \$10,000,000 a year. Blueprints call for the establishment of 2,000 new farm units on the reclaimed land.

A concession for reclamation of the Huleh swamp area was granted by the Turkish Government to two Syrians in 1914. They were unable to start on the project, and the concession was purchased by Jewish interests during the British mandate in Palestine. The Jewish National Fund later purchased much of the area surrounding the lake. Work on the drainage project finally began this year, but the Syrian Government lodged a protest with the Mixed Armistice Commission, charging that it violates the Israeli-Syrian armistice agreement.

ISRAEL CABINET SETS JULY 10 AS DATE FOR FORTHCOMING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

JERUSALEM, March 27. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet today set July 10 as the date for the forthcoming general elections. The date must be confirmed by the Israel Parliament.

3/28/51

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE MCGHEE ARRIVES IN ISRAEL; CONFERS WITH GOVT. LEADERS

JERUSALEM, March 27. (JTA) -- Assistant Secretary of State George McGhee, who is now on a tour of the Middle East, arrived in Jerusalem this morning and immediately began a series of conferences with Israel Government leaders. Mr. McGhee, who is head of the Middle East Division of the Department of State, crossed the Jordan-Israel border from the Old City of Jerusalem. He was accompanied by Monnet Davis, United States Ambassador to Israel.

With Mr. Davis, Mr. McGhee immediately proceeded to the Jerusalem office of the Israel Foreign Ministry and spent 45 minutes with Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett in discussion of various outstanding questions. He then visited Premier David Ben Gurion, with whom he had a 30-minute conversation.

The American diplomat then saw Ely Palmer, United States member of the United Nations Conciliation Commission on Palestine. He was to see President Chaim Weizmann this afternoon. On his arrival here, Mr. McGhee told newspapermen that he was very satisfied with his tour of the Middle Eastern capitals.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE WILL FIGHT FOR JEWISH RIGHTS IN COUNTRIES BEHIND IRON CURTAIN

NEW YORK, March 27. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee today announced that it will continue to use all possible legitimate means to protect the rights of Jews in Communist countries, until arrangements are made for them to emigrate to Israel and other countries. The Committee charged that Communist governments are liquidating Jewish communal life in their countries.

The details of the campaign which is being conducted against Jewish institutions in the countries behind the Iron Curtain will be placed before the United Nations Commission on Human Rights when it meets on April 16 in Geneva. "As the oldest American organization devoted to combatting bigotry, protecting the civil and religious rights of Jews, and advancing human rights everywhere in the world, the American Jewish Committee is taking all the necessary steps to prevent the complete liquidation of Jews still resident within the Soviet Union and its satellites," the A.J.C. announcement said.

JEWISH AND NON-JEWISH RELIEF GROUPS URGE PROLONGATION OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AID

GENEVA, March 27. (JTA) -- The prediction that the International Refugee Organization, which is to expire September 30, will be extended to the end of the year was made today at the United Nations Social Commission now meeting here.

A decision to ask the Commission to consider the plight of refugees and migrants after the expiration of the International Refugee Organization was adopted here at a conference of non-governmental organizations in which all major international Jewish organizations dealing with refugee problems participated. The conference emphasized the need for avoiding interruption of inter-governmental machinery for resettlement assistance and emergency relief for refugees.

The headquarters of the International Refugee Organization here today issued a report stating that refugee settlement in the United States climbed to 9,626 in January--the highest point in 15 months--and that prospects for continuing admission of large numbers to the United States are very good. The report said that agreements are now nearing completion with Israel and the Scandinavian countries for providing care for a substantial number of refugees requiring continued institutional care.

3/28/51

ISRAEL FAVORS GRANTING OF SPECIAL STATUS TO JEWISH AGENCY, DR. GOLDMANN REPORTS

NEW YORK, March 27. (JTA) -- Israel Government and party leaders, including Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, will urge the Parliament to grant special status to the Jewish Agency for Palestine as the instrument through which world Jewry can continue to participate in the country's immigration, absorption and colonization programs, it was stated here today by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the American section of the Agency, who last night returned from a trip to Israel.

Dr. Goldmann said that appropriate legislation would likely be submitted in time for parliamentary approval before the convening of the World Zionist Congress, scheduled to take place in Jerusalem some time this summer. As at present contemplated, the bill would specifically define the powers and responsibilities of the Jewish Agency; set up an enlarged Joint Development Authority on which the Government and Jewish Agency would be represented; provide means for assuring that the work of other Jewish organizations in Israel would be coordinated with that of the Jewish Agency.

Declaring that the name of the Jewish Agency will be changed to "Jewish Agency for Israel," Dr. Goldmann said: "I must emphasize that the Agency's proposed special status would not impinge one iota upon the loyalty of Jews to the country of their present citizenship. The proposed status involves no more than cooperation in a non-political, humanitarian task of great magnitude--the absorption of hundreds of thousands of homeless human beings into Israel--and would leave the Government of Israel with absolutely unimpaired sovereignty over the political affairs, internal and external, of the state."

Dr. Goldmann said it has not yet been decided whether the "status bill" would be presented for approval to the present parliament, or would be held over for submission to the new parliament to be chosen at Israel's national elections, now scheduled for July. He added that the Zionist Congress would open a fortnight after the elections took place.

BEN GURION SAYS REPORT OF HIS ALLEGED REFUSAL OF INVITATION TO DR. SILVER IS "INCORRECT"

JERUSALEM, March 27. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion today termed as "incorrect" a report published in the Israeli Daily "Haaretz" that he had rejected a proposal to invite Dr. Abba Hillel Silver to Israel as an official guest of the Government.

In a cable to Benjamin Browdy, president of the Zionist Organization of America, Mr. Ben Gurion said: "The report published in Haaretz is not authoritative and is incorrect. I appreciate fully the Zionist work done by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. As all devoted Zionists, I am sure he will continue to render his assistance in the future as well." Mr. Ben Gurion's cable came in reply to a request addressed to him by Mr. Browdy asking for "clarification" of the Haaretz report.

(Commenting on Premier Ben Gurion's reply, Mr. Browdy said in New York today: "I am highly gratified to learn that the statement in Haaretz concerning Dr. Silver and attributed to Premier Ben Gurion is incorrect and untrue. It is with particular pleasure that I note the Prime Minister's appreciation of Dr. Silver's Zionist work as well as the expression of hope on the part of Israel's Government leader that Dr. Silver will continue his great work in the future. The cause of Israel has never been in greater need of team work and full cooperation than today, and in this work all of us, including David Ben Gurion and Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, should stand together.")

3/28/51

ISRAEL REPAYS \$1,000,000 LOAN TO AMERICAN LABOR UNION; CHECK SENT TO DUBINSKY

NEW YORK, March 27. (JTA) -- The Israel Government has repaid \$1,000,000 to the International Ladies Garment Workers Union which advanced the sum to Israel as a loan about a year ago, it was announced here today by David Dubinsky, president of the union. The \$1,000,000 was lent when the Jewish state was in need of short-term loans to pay for materials purchased in the United States.

In announcing the receipt of the million-dollar check from the Israel Treasury, Mr. Dubinsky emphasized that the Jewish state is meeting its financial obligations promptly in spite of the economic difficulties in which the country finds itself. He appealed to the Jews of America to invest their money in Israeli bonds, especially in bonds issued by the Amon Israeli Corporation, which is building homes in Israel.

AUSTRALIAN JEWRY ENDORSES ISRAEL'S DEMANDS UPON GERMANY FOR \$1,500,000,000 IN REPARATIONS

SYDNEY, March 27. (JTA) -- The Executive Council of Australian Jewry, representative body of the Jewish community, has endorsed Israel's claim for \$1,500,000,000 in reparations from Germany. The resolution asked the Australian Government to support the "claim made by the Government of Israel on behalf of those who cannot rise out of their graves to do so."

The Council also stressed the fact that Israel has borne the major part of the burden of rehabilitating Jewish survivors of the Nazi terror. "The claim by Israel presents an opportunity for the government and people of Germany to acknowledge in practical terms their collective guilt for the unspeakable barbarities committed by them upon the Jewish people," the resolution declared.

SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONISTS CHANGE NAME OF THEIR PARTY; WANT GENERAL ZIONISTS UNITED

JOHANNESBURG, March 27. (JTA) -- A special conference of the United Zionist Party of South Africa, which is affiliated with the Confederation of General Zionists, has decided to change the name of the South African unit to the United General Zionist Party of South Africa.

The parley also adopted a resolution deprecating the division in the ranks of General Zionism in Israel and warning that unless the breach is healed the split may spread to the General Zionist parties outside the Jewish state. A united General Zionist party, the resolution declared, will facilitate the "vitally necessary co-operation between the state of Israel and the World Zionist Organization."

Negotiations are under way for the purchase of ships which will be used in a merchant fleet operating between South African ports and the Israel port of Eilat in the Gulf of Akaba, it was announced here by S.M. Kuper, chairman of the South African Zionist Federation. The vessels will fly the Israel flag.

IRISH JEWRY TO RECLAIM LAND IN ISRAEL IN HONOR OF COMMUNAL LEADER

DUBLIN, March 27. (JTA) -- Irish Jewry has decided to redeem a tract of land in Israel in honor of Professor Leonard Abrahamson, world famous heart specialist and president of the Royal College of Physicians of Eire. Prof. Abrahamson was until recently chairman of the Jewish Representative Council.

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