

302,454 PUPILS ATTENDED JEWISH SCHOOLS IN U.S. THIS SPRING

NEW YORK, Sept. 11. (JTA) -- Enrollment in American Jewish schools during the school year 1950-51 reached its highest level attained since accurate nationwide reporting of Jewish school statistics was instituted in 1944, according to a report compiled by Dr. Uriah Z. Engelman, director of research of the American Association for Jewish Education, and released here to day.

In the spring of 1951, 302,454 students were attending classes in all Jewish schools--Sunday Schools, congregational and non-congregational schools, week-day afternoon schools, all-day schools and released-time classes. This figure marked an increase of 13.4 percent over the enrollment recorded during the school year 1949-50, or the greatest relative increase since the annual Jewish school census was introduced six years ago.

Increased enrollments were reported in practically every significant Jewish community during the past school year. Baltimore reported an increase of 17 percent; Essex County, N. J., 24 percent; Boston, 19.4 percent; Milwaukee, 20.8 percent; Philadelphia, 11.3 percent; Los Angeles, 11.1 percent and New York, 2.6 percent. More than half of the children enrolled in Jewish schools in 1950-51 attended Sunday Schools, as against 42.7 percent in week-day classes, with the Sunday School enrollment gain recorded at 21 percent as against a 6.5 percent for the week-day schools.

JEWISH GROUPS IN BRAZIL HOLD THREE-DAY PARLEY; FORM CONFEDERATION

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Sept. 11. (JTA) -- A three-day meeting of representatives of various Jewish organizations throughout Brazil concluded here today with the formation of a Confederation of Jewish Organizations of Brazil.

The first act of the new confederation was to affiliate with the World Jewish Congress. Represented at the parley were the Jewish communities of various Brazilian cities including Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Curitiba and Bello Horizonte.

DR. LEO HERMANN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF KEREN HAYESOD, DEAD

JERUSALEM, Sept. 11. (JTA) -- Dr. Leo Hermann, general secretary of the board of directors of the Keren Hayesod, died suddenly last night while visiting friends near Tel Aviv. He was 63 years old.

Born in Czechoslovakia, he joined the Zionist movement in his early youth. He studied law at Prague University but moved later to Berlin where he became the secretary of the Zionist Actions Committee. In 1914 he assumed editorship of the Juedische Rundschau, leading Zionist newspaper in Germany, and held this post for five years.

In 1919 he was appointed general secretary of the World Zionist Executive and later became the general secretary of the Keren Hayesod. He had resided in Israel since 1926. During World War II he was a member of the Middle East Council of the UNRRA. He had often visited the United States in the interest of the Keren Hayesod.

SCHNEIERSON AND WEILER NAMED CO-CHAIRMEN OF FEDERATION APPEAL

NEW YORK, Sept. 11. (JTA) -- Samuel S. Schneierson and Jack D. Weiler, well-known Jewish community leaders, have been named co-chairmen of the opening phases of the 34th annual maintenance campaign of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, it was announced last night by Milton Weill, president of the Federation. The campaign, now in the planning and organizational stage, will open officially Wednesday, September 26th.

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BLACK MARKET IN ISRAEL ATTACKED BY MINISTER IN PARLIAMENT

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12, (JTA) -- Israel Minister of Agriculture Pinchas Lavon today delivered a sharp attack on the black market in Israel during a lengthy debate on the government's food policy, which was begun yesterday with a two-hour report by Mr. Lavon on the state of agricultural production.

The Minister charged that in fact two states existed in Israel: the lawful state, which managed to distribute 80 to 90 percent of the food to consumers at official prices; and the unlawful state of the black market which involved building supplies, transport and both small and large industrial establishments. He warned that the two "states" could not exist side-by-side and that the illegal state would "kill off" the legal state.

However, the Minister also insisted that the extent of the black market was exaggerated. The sources of the black market in food, he said, were partly the large quantities of food which the immigrants were permitted to bring in duty free and the food parcels from abroad. He estimated that some 10,000 of 120,000 food parcels received here are sold in the black market. In addition, some of the immigrants, unaccustomed to a portion of their new diet, sold it.

Minister Lavon insisted that both private and co-operative enterprises were involved in illegal transactions and blamed some of it on smugglers operating from the neighboring Arab states. The Minister's prescription for ending the black market called for: an expanded enforcement apparatus; greater co-operation on the part of the public; and prompt distribution of rationed items at the time when they are promised.

Deputies Blame Government for the Situation

Critics of the government from the far right to the Communist left took the floor after the Minister relinquished it. Centrist deputy Joseph Saphir blamed government planning for the situation. He insisted that signs of trouble were discernible last March and, in the name of the General Zionist Party, demanded "better planning."

Left-wing Mapam leader Aharon Zisling insisted that the existing apparatus could suppress the black market if it were used correctly. Religious Laborite Yaakov Chazani suggested that the government permit price rises in domestically-produced goods. The high cost of production and the low ceiling prices forced farmers to turn from many food products and concentrate on those items which yielded high returns, he said.

Communist deputy Esther Wilenska, seizing on Lavon's statement that the Korean War had inflated prices of goods which Israel must import, declared that Israel should not have been linked so closely to the West. She asked that the Jewish state trade more with the East where, she insisted, prices have not risen.

U.N. COMMISSION STARTS SEPARATE TALKS TODAY WITH ARABS, ISRAELIS

PARIS, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- Reports in the British press that the Arab-Israeli conference sponsored here by the United Nations Conciliation Commission had been adjourned indefinitely were officially denied today by a spokesman for the Commission. He said that the first formal meeting will take place tomorrow.

The meeting will be held in two parts, he disclosed. In the morning the Commission will meet with the Arab delegations and in the afternoon it will hold a session with the Israeli delegation. The Arab delegations still insisted today that they will not sit together with the Israelis.

Israel will present at the meeting broad, constructive proposals for "liquidating the residue of the Palestine war, alleviating the plight of its victims, placing the relations between Israel and its neighbors on a peaceful footing and contributing to permanent security in the region," an Israel delegation spokesman told newsmen today.

The spokesman reiterated that Israel believes that the "first test of willingness to agree is willingness to meet." Once again pointing out that the Arab state's political, economic and even military activities against Israel are endangering the armistice agreements, the spokesman suggested that the U.N. Commission should obtain from all parties assurances that they wish to settle all outstanding issues. Finally, the spokesman repeated a point made earlier by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett that Israel "does not regard it as profitable to negotiate on specific points out of context, but only as part of a broad settlement."

Meanwhile, it was learned here that Ahmed Shoukeri, assistant secretary general of the Arab League, has turned up as a delegate to the Arab-Israeli parley. Shoukeri says that he is Syria's "second delegate," adding that he is a Palestine Arab refugee himself. He asserted that he does not represent the Arab League in any way.

BEN GURION SAYS HE WILL FORM NEW CABINET WITHIN FEW DAYS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- In a brief "report to the nation" delivered in the Parliament last night, Israeli Premier David Ben Gurion promised to reveal within a few days whether he is able to form a coalition government.

The Premier reiterated the four principles upon which any coalition government which he leads must base itself. These points he listed as: building national security; gathering-in the exiles; building up the country; and, strengthening world peace. Any party which agrees with these principles, he asserted, can join the Mapai in a coalition government.

After his speech, representatives of various opposition parties insisted that all parties in the country could agree on these points. But, they said, the problem which is holding up the formation of a government is how to implement these principles.

Following the announcement that the left-wing Mapam Party would not join a coalition led by the Mapai, observers here expressed optimism that a government would shortly be formed. Ben Gurion met today with representatives of the General Zionists and the Religious Laborites and both parties are expected to join the Cabinet.

GERMANY'S DECISION ON VICTIMS OF NAZI "SCIENCE" WELCOMED

GENEVA, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- The United Nations Economic and Social Council's Social Committee yesterday adopted a resolution welcoming the decision of the West German Government in accepting responsibility for victims of so-called scientific experiments in Nazi concentration camps.

The resolution, introduced jointly by the representatives of the United States and France, called on member and non-member states of the U.N. and its specialized agencies to assist the German Government in investigating the cases of victims of the "experiments" now living in their territory. In addition, the resolution urged the powers occupying Germany to give sympathetic consideration to applications to transfer funds from Germany to victims now living abroad. The World Health Organization and agencies distributing reparations funds were also asked to assist in the program to aid the victims.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS CALLS UPON U.S. TO RATIFY GENOCIDE PACT

GENEVA, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress executive, at its meeting here last night, adopted a resolution urging the governments of the United States, Britain, Russia and China to ratify the U.N. Genocide Convention which outlaws racial extermination. The resolution pointed out that while sufficient ratifications have been received by the United Nations to make the genocide pact effective, no ratifications have come yet from these governments.

The executive decided not to accept an invitation extended by the National Yugoslavian Peace Defense Committee to attend a Peace Congress scheduled to be held next month in Zagreb. The decision said that while the branches of the W.J.C. in London, Tel Aviv and New York are not inclined to participate in the proposed parley, this is not binding on other affiliates of the Congress.

Another resolution calls on the United Nations, as well as on the people and the authorities of the new state of Libya, to guarantee to the Libyan Jews complete autonomy for their educational, religious and charitable institutions. The resolution demands that the Jewish institutions should benefit from public funds. It also requests free emigration of Jews from Libya with their property and funds.

MILAN JEWISH COMMUNITY ORGAN DEBATES RE-ADMISSION OF CONVERTS

MILAN, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- The Milan Jewish community organ has opened its columns to a debate which has been raging throughout the Italian Jewish community since the end of the war--the problem of the Jews who accepted conversion to Christianity during the Fascist regime.

The current issue of the bulletin carries a letter from Dr. Fabian Herskowitz, who recently toured the Jewish communities of Italy as an envoy of the Jewish Agency, which calls for re-admission of all converts who desire to return to Judaism. Dr. Herskowitz expresses the opinion that not only should such converts be accepted when they wish to return, but that they should be encouraged to return. Other Jewish leaders are expected to express their opinion on the issue in future editions of the publication.

SO. AFRICAN GOVT. DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST JEWS, LEADER SAYS

SYDNEY, Australia, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- B.A. Ettlinger, former president of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, said here that Prime Minister Daniel F. Malan of South Africa has made good on the assurances he gave to Ettlinger when his party assumed power in 1948, that there would be no discrimination against the Jews. Speaking to a luncheon meeting of the several Jewish groups, Mr. Ettlinger said that South African Jews will continue to remain alert for signs of discrimination, particularly if an economic depression should develop.

ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IS GOOD, OFFICIAL SAYS UPON ARRIVAL IN N.Y.

NEW YORK, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- The economic outlook for Israel is good and considerable capital is flowing into the country from abroad, David Horowitz, director-general of the Israel Ministry of Finance, told newsmen today upon his arrival here to help the Israel Bond Drive campaign. Mr. Horowitz, who will attend the National Economic Conference for Israel in Washington September 20-23, added that eventual-ly Israel will become self-supporting.

He reported that Israel had received \$50,000,000 in cash from the Bond Drive since it began last May 1 and that all the money had been spent or earmarked for "productive self-liquidating projects" such as electrical power development, irrigation, food processing plants and the manufacture of ceramics and potash products. He is scheduled to be one of the principal speakers at a rally this Sunday opening the fall drive of the Greater New York Committee for the Israel Bond Drive.

While he is in this country Mr. Horowitz will discuss Israel's oil situation with American officials in Washington. Among the topics to be discussed will be the possibility of increasing the production capacity of the Haifa oil refinery through the supply of additional crude oil from the Western Hemisphere, and the exploration and exploitation of oil resources in Israel itself, said by American geologists to be expensive.

Z.O.A. PRESIDENT CALLS FOR A HALT TO REVIVAL OF CONTROVERSIES

NEW YORK, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- Benjamin G. Browdy, president of the Zionist Organization of America, today called for a halt to what he termed "the revival of outworn controversies" within the Zionist movement. He commented on a statement released to the press by Rudolf G. Sonneborn, chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, upon his return from the Congress in Jerusalem, calling for the elimination of "partisan Zionism" and questioning the status of the Zionist Organization.

The Z.O.A. president declared that the tasks confronting the Zionist movement and the issue of a status for the Zionist Organization have been debated at length and resolved by the recently concluded World Zionist Congress. "It therefore would serve no useful purpose insofar as the Zionist cause is concerned to resume the debate on these issues at the expense of a unified and concerted effort on behalf of Israel," he added.

TRUMAN SAYS HE MAY ATTEND DEDICATION OF "HOUSE OF LIBERAL JUDAISM"

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- President Truman said today that if he can possibly fit it into his schedule, he will attend the dedication during the last week in October of a new building erected by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and known as the "House of Liberal Judaism."

The President made this promise to a delegation which called at the White House to invite him. Louis Broido, chairman of the dedication committee, said that a photograph of the building was presented to Mr. Truman and he was impressed by it. Other members of the delegation included Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Milton Kronheim, of Washington, D.C., Rabbi Samuel Thurman of the United Hebrew Temple, St. Louis, Mo., and Rep. Adolph Sabath, of Illinois, dean of the House of Representatives.