

J T A DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY, INC. 231 West 58th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

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VOL. XVIII No. 237 - 33rd year

Monday, December 10, 1951

PRESIDENT WEIZMANN REPORTED "SLIGHTLY IMPROVED"; SEES VISITORS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- President Weizmann's condition was described tonight as "slightly improved" in the bulletin issued by his physicians at Rehovoth where he has been ill of a pulmonary infection for the past few weeks. The bulletin said that Dr. Weizmann ate his food today "with a greater appetite." The morning bulletin said that he had spent a quiet night.

Throughout the week-end members of the government and Parliament called on the President. Among today's visitors were Premier David Ben Gurion, Jewish Agency co-chairman Berl Locker and Agency member Zalman Shazar. Hundreds of cables and messages from all over the world are pouring into the Weizmann residence.

Meanwhile, the President's son, Benjamin, is expected here from London today. Dr. Weizmann's closest friends, including Sir Simon Marks, are also expected to arrive here by plane this evening. Special prayers were again offered in synagogues throughout Israel this week-end for the President's recovery.

ATTEMPT TO END ISRAELI SEAMEN'S STRIKE FAILS AGAIN

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- New attempts to settle the seamen's strike in Israel failed today when striking maritime workers refused to return to work before negotiations were begun with the Histadrut, as had been demanded by the labor federation. Meanwhile, Captain Itzhak Aharanowitz of the S.S. Tel Aviv, one-time master of the visaless immigrant vessel Exodus, today became the first captain to throw in his lot with the strikers.

This week-end saw the launching of a new nationwide seamen's union by the Histadrut under the leadership of Shaul Avigor, former Under Secretary of Defense. Most of the strikers, however, refused to join the new union. Those that did approach it were told that they would have to return to their jobs before the union would agree to deal with them.

When the seamen asked the Histadrut-formed union to guarantee that all the strikers would be rehired, the Histadrut group refused. At this point the strikers gave up their attempt to end the strike. They were then joined by the crews of the Tel Aviv and Rimón, which docked at Tel Aviv this week-end.

A report from Liverpool received here today said that the crew of the Ethrog, Israeli vessel berthed at that port, went on a one-hour strike to demonstrate their solidarity with their striking fellow workers in Israel.

Mordecai Namir, general secretary of the Histadrut, reported that 2,000 men had volunteered to man Israel's ships. Forty percent of the strikers had requested a return to work, he declared. He said that 10 ships, manned by volunteers, had sailed since the strike tied up Israel's merchant shipping.

IRAQ ABOLISHES JEWISH COURTS; EXISTED FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS

LONDON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Iraqi Ministry of Justice has abolished the Jewish religious court and the Jewish court of appeals which were established in Bagdad more than 100 years ago, it was reported here today.

Successive Iraqi regimes had given these courts legal authority to deal with communal and personal matters affecting Jews, including issues of marriage, divorce and inheritance. Emigration of the members of the courts and the lack of qualified candidates to fill vacancies was given as reason for the government action. Most of the Iraqi Jewish population was evacuated to Israel earlier this year.

MUNITIONS CONSIGNED TO EGYPT SEIZED BY ISRAEL AT HAIFA PORT

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- One thousand two hundred and fifty-one cases containing 150,000 rounds of 20 mm. ammunition consigned to Egypt were removed from the French vessel *Champion* of the Messageries Maritime line this week-end at Haifa and placed under police guard pending investigation.

The seizure of cargo destined for an Arab state was the first in Israel's history. It followed a check of the ship's manifest by port authorities when the vessel put into Haifa on a scheduled run to Middle East and Mediterranean ports including Beirut, Lebanon, and Alexandria, Egypt. The *Champion* was held up 24 hours to enable removal of the war materiel.

In the past, Israeli authorities have not interfered with cargo consigned to Arab countries carried by ships entering Israeli ports. Authorities explained that their latest action was due to the fact that the seized cargo was of an exclusively military nature. The Egyptian authorities make it a regular practice to seize all cargo, irrespective of its nature, consigned to Israel and forbid transit through the Suez Canal of shipping bound for Israeli ports. The French Legation here has been officially informed of the action.

RUMANIA NAMES NEW ENVOY TO TEL AVIV AFTER YEAR'S LAPSE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Rumanian Government has broken a year-long boycott of diplomatic relations with the Israel Government by nominating a new Minister to Tel Aviv. It was announced here today that the new envoy, Constantin Stanesku, is expected to arrive next week-end.

The former Minister was recalled a year ago after an attack by Premier David Ben Gurion on the Rumanian Government's attitude toward Jewish migration to Israel. During the year, the Rumanian Legation's affairs have been handled by a *Charge d'Affaires*.

NEW BRITISH MINISTER TO ISRAEL ARRIVES IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Sir Francis Evans, former British Consul General in New York, arrived here by air to assume his new duties as British Minister to the Jewish state.

He expressed concern over the illness of President Chaim Weizmann and hope for his speedy recovery.

DR. GOLDMANN URGES DIRECT TALKS WITH GERMANY ON JEWISH CLAIMS

LONDON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, acting chairman of the World Jewish Congress and co-chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, last night called upon the Israel Government and the Jewish people to negotiate directly with the West German Government for the payment of restitution and reparations claims and not to depend upon the Allied Governments to press Jewish claims against Germany.

Dr. Goldmann, who made the appeal in a speech before the annual conference of the British Section of the W. J. C., conferred with the American High Commissioner for Germany, John J. McCloy, during the week-end on various problems raised at the recent New York conference on restitution. He was scheduled to fly to Israel today.

Dr. Goldmann expressed confidence in West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's readiness to implement the offer he made to negotiate with Israel and the Jewish people on restitution claims against Germany. He said that Jews who wanted to depend on the Allies or anyone else but the Jewish people to negotiate its own claims were "naive," and warned that speed in taking up the Adenauer offer was important because if Germany re-armed there was no way of predicting who would be in power in that country within a few decades. He urged Israel to mobilize public opinion and the support of the Allied Governments behind its claims.

At this morning's session of the W. J. C. conference it was reported that the British section has proposed to the British and other Allied Governments whose nationals died in Germany that the burial sites of all victims of Nazi persecution should come under international supervision. The report, which stressed that the move had been undertaken because of the frequent desecration of Jewish graves and cemeteries in Germany, said that the proposal has received sympathetic consideration from the British Government.

Nazi and Arab Influence in Latin America Discussed

Dr. Israel Goldstein, chairman of the American Jewish Congress and head of the W. J. C. Western Hemisphere executive, asserted that Latin America has become the center of the international Nazi movement. He linked the Nazi and Arab communities in Latin America, and pointed out that in some regions this combination was more influential politically and larger numerically than the Jewish communities. He added that anti-Semites were attempting to use Latin American government security programs aimed at Eastern European governments against Jews in South America, many of whom were born in East and Central Europe.

At last night's session, Dr. Goldstein insisted that the Jews owed Germany nothing in return for its fulfillment of their just claims, adding that even fulfillment of these claims cannot expunge the record of Nazi crimes and outrages against the Jews. He said the W. J. C. had participated in the New York conference on German restitution not to relieve Germany of its responsibilities through the payment of a single lump sum, but to recover "what still can be recovered."

Before the parley opened, Dr. Goldstein said that while the Jewish people's moral account with Germany may take generations to liquidate, depending on the degree of German penitence and atonement, Germany was able immediately to make material amends in some measure commensurate with the enormity of its crime. This issue, he asserted, should be given priority on the agenda of discussions between the United States and Britain with Germany.

Recent manifestations of neo-Nazism in Germany, Dr. Goldstein said, raised the question whether it would not be advisable to include in the contractual arrangement the Western Powers are now negotiating with the Federal German Republic, provisions for Western supervision of such matters as restitution, re-education, denazification and control of cemeteries.

F. B. I. ORDERED TO INVESTIGATE BOMBING OF MIAMI SYNAGOGUE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- U.S. Attorney General J. Howard McGrath this week-end ordered the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate the recent series of bombings in Miami. The Department of Justice said the investigation would determine if any violation of civil rights or any other Federal statutes are involved.

In a communication to Justice Meier Steinbrink, head of the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith, the Attorney General acknowledged receipt of a request by Justice Steinbrink for investigation of a series of bombings in the Miami area and the jurist's telegram of December 3 urging immediate investigation of the bombing of the Miami Hebrew School and Congregation and of the Carver Village development earlier in the week.

"Under the circumstances and in view of the serious nature of the matter," the Attorney General declared, "we are conducting an immediate inquiry. You may be assured that should it develop that violations of Federal laws are involved, appropriate action will be undertaken."

STATE DEPARTMENT TO SEEK CHANGE IN LAW AFFECTING VISAS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The State Department will seek easement from Congress of some of the provisions of the McCarran Act as they pertain to the granting of visas to visiting scientists, artists, educators and others who have recently been denied visas to enter the United States, it was learned here this week-end. It was reported that the United States Government has been embarrassed abroad by the refusal of visas to eminent persons who have sought to enter the U.S. for a visit.

The most recent incident of this sort was denial of a visa to Dr. Ernst Boris Chain, European Jewish scientist who shared the Nobel Prize for his work in connection with the discovery of the use of the drug penicillin. Last week Meyer Weisgal, chairman of the executive council of the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovoth, released a letter by Dr. Chain in which he protested the State Department's refusal of a visa as a denial of his civil rights.

Dr. Chain's letter revealed that he had been denied a visa when he sought to enter the country on a mission for the United Nations' affiliate, World Health Organization, and again when he sought to attend the annual Weizmann Birthday Dinner in New York last week, at which funds are raised for the Weizmann's Institute's scientific work.

AMERICAN TO BE NAMED DIRECTOR OF NEW AGENCY SUCCEEDING I. R. O.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe closed its first meeting here yesterday after naming American representative George L. Warren and Belgian representative Franz Leemans provisional directors of the organization. It was reported that the delegations of the 16 nations represented at the conference have agreed that the director shall be an American and that Mr. Warren should find the proper person for the post.

The budget of the organization, which will take over some of the functions of the International Refugee Organization when it is liquidated next January 15, is \$36,954,000, of which some \$2,360,000 is administrative expense, \$14,000,000 is contributions from member governments to the operating fund and the remainder represents reimbursements from governments and services rendered directly by governments. The U.S. is expected to pay \$1,000,000 of the administrative budget and \$9,000,000 toward the \$14,000,000 operating budget.

NEW YORK JOURNAL OF PROGRESS FOR U.S. JEWS PREDICTED BY AMERICAN OFFICIAL

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The "firm belief" that the Jews in the United States are "on the threshold of a new era of progress," was expressed here today by Earl James McGrath, U.S. Commissioner of Education, addressing the two-day National Conference on Adult Jewish Education which opened today at the Jewish Theological Seminary here. The conference is sponsored jointly by the Rabbinical Assembly of America and the National Academy for Adult Jewish Studies, currently celebrating its 10th anniversary.

"Jews and Jewish culture," he declared, "have come to stay and to become increasingly a part of the whole American pattern. If we are to have any fears for the future they cannot be merely for the future of American Jews alone. If anti-Semitism is again to become a threat it will menace the whole of the American people, the whole of American democracy. For a threat to one group spells danger to the whole. Our destinies are inextricably interwoven."

Commissioner McGrath expressed the opinion that the Jews in the United States seem to be in a period of transition, with the process of adapting the essentially European Jewish culture to the American scene not yet complete. "There seems to me to be a real need for vigorous, well-planned and effective adult education programs, in order to catch up on the cultural lag which seems to have been weakening American Judaism," he stated.

Emphasizing that he believes that "a revival of Jewish culture will enrich the lives not only of Jews but of the nation as a whole," the U.S. Commissioner of Education said: "I can understand that there are many old fears which still dominate the lives of American Jews and deaden their sensitivity toward Jewish cultural values. The truth must be faced that American Jews, too, have not escaped that rejection which has plagued Jews throughout history. Merely to have lived through the last decade and to have witnessed the destruction of so many millions of their brothers must have been a shattering experience from which it may take years to recover. Moreover, here too in our own country we have not been free of those manifestations which elsewhere have led to such dreadful disaster."

Commissioner McGrath, who recently visited Israel in an official capacity to organize a group of American educators to study and make recommendations on certain problems in Israel's educational system, announced at the conference that within a short time he will prepare a report dealing with those problems.

SECRETARY OF LABOR ATTACKS RUSSIA'S SUPPRESSION OF JEWISH CULTURE

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A severe attack against the Soviet Government for suppressing Jewish cultural life in the U.S.S.R. was made here today by Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, addressing a dinner of Yeshiva University at the Waldorf-Astoria.

"The Soviet tyrants," Secretary Tobin said, "have added their names to the long list of those who tried to crush the Jewish heritage. And like every other tyrant on that list, they will fail. The heritage will live on, after the tyrants have perished. Two thousand years of persecution have not crushed it and it can withstand anything the Soviet leaders can devise."

The Secretary of Labor emphasized that "today the future of Jewish heritage, the future of Judaism itself, is closely linked to the cause of the free world." Only in the free world, he said, can institutions like Yeshiva University take root and grow. He lauded the University as "an expression of the historic dedication of the Jew to the things of the mind and the things of the spirit."

JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT ANNOUNCED BY HARVARD AND ISRAEL

BOSTON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A co-operative research project of the State of Israel and the Harvard University Law School was announced here today. The new undertaking will be known as the Harvard Law School and Israel Joint Research Project for Legal Development of Israel.

The announcement, made by the Law School's Dean Erwin N. Griswold, said that the institution's resources will be made available to the Israel Justice Ministry in its task of "developing a unified system of law, which will meet the needs of a modern state and at the same time reflect the historic traditions of the Government of Israel."

Among those who have been active in the development of the new project are Assistant Professor Harold J. Berman of the Harvard Law School Faculty and Fred Monosson, of Boston, American Zionist leader. Committees will be formed in the Greater Boston area, as well as in other sectors, to support the new project, it was announced. Dean Griswold, in his announcement, said:

"Not only are we glad to help the State of Israel in putting our unique world-wide library to this good service, but the Law School regards the research program and the studies it calls for as an unparalleled opportunity to contribute to the advancement of legal science. "The State of Israel is confronted by novel and difficult legal problems in developing a legal system which will both reflect Israel's historic traditions and meet the needs of a modern, progressive state. We have been impressed by the wisdom of the Ministry of Justice of Israel in seeking to draw upon the laws and legal experience of the leading nations of the world in formulating proposals for Israel's legislation."

U.S. VOLUNTEERS WHO DIED IN ISRAEL'S WAR WILL BE HONORED

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A project to establish a "memorial forest" in honor of American volunteers--both Jews and non-Jews--who fell in Israel's war of liberation was launched here today by the American Veterans of Israel, a fraternal organization of Americans who served in the Israel campaign, including those who manned the "illegal" immigration ships during the Mandatory period.

The project was announced today at a meeting at the Statler Hotel sponsored jointly by the Jewish National Fund and the American Veterans of Israel. It was reported at the meeting that about 50 Americans had died in action in Israel and that no monument has as yet been set up in their memory. It was decided at the meeting to plant 10,000 trees in their honor in the rocky hills of Judea.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL URGES CHANUKAH DRIVE FOR ISRAEL BONDS

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Rabbi Simon G. Kramer, president of the Synagogue Council of America, today called for a special Chanukah effort in support of the State of Israel bond issue. His communication urging increased activity for the Israel bond drive was addressed to 2,500 Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Rabbis throughout the country, who are affiliated with the Council.

ISRAEL STARTS PREPARATIONS FOR-1953 WORLD MACCABIAD

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Preparations for the fourth Maccabiade, the world Jewish Olympics, to be held in Israel in April and May, 1953, have already commenced, Aharon Methanel, chairman of the Maccabi World executive, said here today.