JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

Contents Copyright. Republication only by previous arrangement

VOL. XIX No. 10 - 34th year Tuesday, January 15, 1952

ISRAEL INVITED TO LONDON CONFERENCE ON PRE-WAR GERMAN DEBTS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- The State of Israel is one of 27 countries which have been invited to send representatives to a conference on pre-war German external debts, it was announced today by the State Department. The conference, which will take place in London, will open on February 28th.

Arranged by the Governments of the United States, Britain and France--in cooperation with the West German Government--the conference will take place under the direction of the Tripartite Commission on German Debts. Its purpose is "to provide an opportunity for negotiations for settlement of German pre-war external debts between representatives of the German central government and German creditors on one hand, and representatives of creditor interests on the other hand," an official announcement said.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learns that the invitation to Israel to participate in the London parley followed an exchange of notes between the Israel Government and the governments of the sponsoring powers. Israel pointed out that a number of its citizens hold German pre-war obligations, that the Jewish state should be represented at the conference.

The Israel Government, the J. T. A. learns, also took the position that no decision should be taken at the London talks except in the light of Israel's claim for reparations from Germany. This stand was taken by the Israel Cabinet in view of the fact that the conference might seek to establish a system of priority in payments to be made by Germany. It was also pointed out that a large part of Israel's claims for reparations involve the pre-war period and are not war damages.

Most of the damage suffered by Jews in Germany was during the period of 1933-39, when discriminatory taxes and other confiscatory measures were applied to Jews by the Nazi regime, the Israeli note emphasized. The invitation to the London conference provides for the sending of governmental representatives as well as representatives of private creditors.

ISRAEL REPORTED READY TO TALK WITH GERMANY IN TWO WEEKS

LONDON, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Israel is expected to communicate with the West German Government within two weeks on the Israeli claim for reparations, it was reported today in the press here. The report stresses that the Israeli note will be delivered through John J. McCloy, American High Commissioner for Germany, and will agree to negotiations but will insist that they be held in some neutral country.

The report, emanating from Tel Aviv, says that Israeli Cabinet Ministers are optimistic, but Foreign Ministry officials "are anxious about the technical difficulties." The report predicts that Israeli delegates to the negotiations will have to

insist that Germany, able to pay reparations only in goods, should not give consumer goods, but products that can be used for long-term development of the Jewish State--such as agricultural tools and machinery, irrigation pipes and prefabricated houses. "The Israelis consider it equally essential that the reparations are delivered over a period of eight to ten years at most, when it is hoped that the country's mass immigration will have been accomplished," the report concludes.

ISRAEL THANKS GERMAN-JEWISH GROUP FOR SUPPORT ON REPARATIONS

DUSSELDORF, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- A letter expressing the Israel Government's "greatest satisfaction" with a resolution adopted by the Central Council of Jews in Germany assuring the Jewish State of the Council's "moral and material support" of Israel's reparations claim against Germany has been sent to the Council by the Israel Foreign Ministry, it was revealed here today.

The letter, which was routed through the Israel consular representative at the headquarters of the Allied High Commission for Germany, also noted with satisfaction "the solidarity and earnest desire of the Central Council, manifested through words and deeds, to co-ordinate its activities in the political field, and especially in the field of reparations, fully with the State of Israel and Jewish organizations outside Germany. We hope that the closest future co-operation between us will secure success in that which is being stiven for by all concerned," the letter added.

It concluded with an assurance that the State of Israel is interested in all Jewish affairs outside Israel though a concrete statement of its views is not always possible because of the "restraint that must be exercised by a sovereign state." It was also learned today that the Central Council has accepted an invitation to send representatives to New York to attend the second international reparations conference of world-wide Jewish groups which will be held on January 20.

Australian Jews Oppose Direct Israel-German Negotiations

SIDNEY, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- The Executive Council of Australian Jewry decided to oppose direct negotiations with the German Government on Jewish reparations claims, but to support attempts at settlement of these claims through the United Nations or the International Court of Justice.

The Council, which will be represented at the forthcoming conference on Jewish claims against Germany to be held in New York on January 20, by Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, has sent instructions to this effect to its representative, it was disclosed here.

Argentine Jewry Disapproves of Direct Talks with Germany

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- In an extraordinary meeting of the DAIA--central body of Argentine Jewry representing all Jewish groups in the country--reports on the proposed reparations talks between Israel and Germany were debated amid heated discussions concerning the propriety of such negotiations.

Although most speakers at the meeting agreed on the justice of Israel's demands for reparations, they condemned direct Israel negotiations with Germany as "shameful and unrealistic." The speakers cited the "feeble majority" obtained by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion in the Knesset, approving Israel-Germany reparations negotiations. A final resolution is expected to be forthcoming at the next session.

ISRAEL PREPARED TO MEET WITH ARABS; SEEKS NO COMMITMENTS

PARIS, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Israel is prepared to meet with Arab representatives without requiring any prior commitments from them, Ambassador Abba S. Eban, chief Israeli delegate to the United Nations, told the U.N. Special Political Committee today. The Committee is debating whether the U.N. Palestine Conciliation Commission should be continued or dissolved.

Mr. Eban said that a peaceful settlement between Israel and the Arab states is possible if the Arab Governments want to reach such a settlement. He pointed out that the mixed armistice commissions--when they were first put forward by the U.N. Conciliation Commission--were accepted by Israel and rejected by the Arabs.

Mr. Eban made a striking reply to Arab claims that Israel was not carrying out the resolutions of the United Nations. He pointed out that the U.N. resolution to partition Palestine into an Arab and Jewish state was destroyed by the Arab states' use of force. "Israel was not destroyed, but the partition resolution was," he said.

The Israeli diplomat recalled that in 1948 the U.N. General Assembly called on the Jews and the Arabs to reach a settlement by negotiations and that Israel was carrying out this recommendation. He emphasized that the Arab states were in defiance of this resolution.

Eban Outlines Israel's Position on Arab Refugee Question

Mr. Eban argued that the call for the return of Arab refugees to their homes, which was included in the U.N. resolution, was based on "peaceful relations and practicability." He also stressed that the present territorial position of Israel was in accord with the U.N. policy. "The General Assembly," he said, "asked both parties to agree on the boundaries between themselves and this has been done."

The Syrian delegate, Ahmed Shukeiri, was called to order at this morning's session by the chairman of the U.N. Political Committee when he referred to Israel as "an artificial state" and spoke of Israel's "melting pot" policy. The chairman interrupted him by pointing out that he did not think that representatives of one state had the right to pass judgment on another state. Similar bitter addresses attacking the Jewish State were made by Fadil el Jamali of Iraq and Abdul Mustafa Bey of Egypt.

Six more delegations are scheduled to explain their votes at tomorrow's session of the Political Committee before the voting begins on the four proposals concerning the future of the Conciliation Commission which face the delegates. The four are:

A Western Power resolution calling for continuation of the present commission, but with the transfer of its headquarters to United Nations, New York; a Pakistani proposal for expansion of the present commission; a Soviet resolution calling for the complete dissolution of the U.N. body as a failure; and, an Israeli recommendation that the Conciliation Commission be replaced with a Good Offices Committee--with the same membership as the Commission--whose services would be available when called for by the parties concerned.

EXPLOSION ROCKS ISRAELI HOSPITAL; NO INJURIES; DAMAGE GREAT

TEL AVIV, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- A gas explosion today caused considerable damage at the Beilinson Hospital, in which Acting President Joseph Sprinzak is a patient. No one was hurt by the blast, but the X-ray room was destroyed and the operating theatre damaged.

ISRAEL GETS $5,500,000 IN WASHINGTON UNDER MUTUAL SECURITY PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Plans were being advanced today for the negotiation of an agreement for the transfer of the remainder of Mutual Security Aid to Israel as announcement was made here of the allocation of $5,500,000, representing the last installment of the $25,730,000 in emergency interim assistance. The remainder--approximately $40,000,000---is expected to be forthcoming as soon as necessary arrangements are completed.

Of the money extended in the last grant, $3,000,000 will be used for electrical equipment and power generating apparatus to be delivered in 1952 to ease the strain on present facilities; $2,000,000 in agricultural equipment, also expected in 1952, and $500,000 in cotton.

ISRAEL CABINET DECIDES TO PREPARE "OIL LAW"; NO DETAILS OFFERED

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet last night appointed a Ministerial committee to prepare an "oil law," it was announced in a communique issued here. The communique did not offer any details of the "oil law."

The Cabinet decided to establish, in conjunction with the Jewish Agency and Jewish National Fund, a body to make plans for expanding the national water supply. Still another committee was set up to study and report on the status of the Hebrew University and its finances, with a view to enlarging the institution and expanding its facilities. The economic situation was also discussed.

CATHOLIC LEADER ATTACKS UNITED NATIONS STAND ON PALESTINE PROBLEM

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- A strong attack on the United Nations for its "attempt to wash its hands of the Palestine problem" was made here by Monsignor Thomas J. McMahon, national secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, addressing about 1,000 members of the Carroll Club at the Waldorf Astoria.

Calling attention to the four-power plan to move the U.N. Palestine Conciliation Commission from Jerusalem to New York, Msgr. McMahon said that the United Nations is forsaking the Palestine problem, especially the problem of the Holy Places. "There is a slow, steady, snide propaganda for the U.N. to untangle itself from Palestine," he said.

Monsignor McMahon, who is also president of the Pontifical Mission to Palestine, remarked that the Catholic Church does not oppose Jewish immigration into Israel and never opposed the establishment of the State of Israel. He added that "we did work to see to it that the U.N. put into the Palestine agreement guaranties for the right to visit the Holy Places."

Defining the problem as a religious one and not political, Monsignor McMahon continued: "Anti-Semitism is a word that stultifies discussion on any matter connected with the problem. Did it ever occur to any one that we could be pro-Christian in our views? I would make that the cornerstone of the whole problem of the Middle East. We are not anti-Semitic, or anti-Arab, but pro-Christian, especially in regard to the Holy Places."

WOMEN TEACHERS' STRIKE IN ISRAEL CONTINUE; 20,000 CHILDREN AFFECTED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Twenty thousand young school children enjoyed the fifth day of an unexpected "vacation" today as women teachers of the lower grades continued their strike. The strike began when the Ministry of Education refused their demand for salary increases.

REVISION OF SUNDAY LAWS ASKED TO AID SABBATH OBSERVERS

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- An appeal to the New York State Legislature to adopt a bill to exempt Sabbath observers from the provisions of the Sunday Laws which prohibit the carrying on of certain types of business and other activity in New York was voiced here this week-end by Leo Pfeffer, counsel for the Joint Committee for a Fair Sabbath Law. Mr. Pfeffer pointed out that the entire problem of the revision of the Sunday Laws has been raised by Gov. Thomes E. Dewey.

The sponsoring organizations of the joint committee include: Agudath Israel of America, American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith, Council of Jewish Orthodox Organizations, Hadassah, Hapoel Hamizrachi of America, Jewish Sabbath Alliance of America, Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Mizrachi Organization of America and others.

CO-OPERATION REPORTED BETWEEN JEWISH CENTERS, JEWISH EDUCATORS

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- A decided trend toward closer working relationships between professionals engaged in Jewish Community Center work and those employed in the field of Jewish education was noted at a national three-day Joint Institute for Jewish Educators and Jewish Center Workers, held here under the auspices of four national Jewish organizations.

The institute attracted nearly 100 executive directors of Jewish Community Centers, directors of bureaus of Jewish education, principals of Jewish schools and other professionals in the field of Jewish Center work and Jewish education from all over the country. The gathering was an outgrowth of a 21-point statement of principles which had been adopted by the National Jewish Welfare Board and the American Association for Jewish Education, two of the institute's sponsors. The other two sponsoring organizations were the National Association of Jewish Center Workers and the National Council for Jewish Education.

The statement of principles, which was considered by participants, recognizes the common objectives of Jewish Community Center work and Jewish education and outlines a specific program for converting these principles into action. Speakers at the Institute emphasized that just as Jewish education needs Jewish Center work to complement and round out its services to the Jewish individual, so does Jewish Center work need Jewish education in a similar give-and-take relationship.

FIRST EXTENSIVE EXHIBITION IN U.S. OF ISRAELI BOOKS OPENS TODAY

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- The first extensive exhibition in the United States of Hebrew books published in Israel will open here tomorrow at the Jewish Museum. The exhibition is arranged by the Bialik Institute of Jerusalem, a non-profit foundation supported by the Jewish Agency.

At a press preview today, Moshe Gordon, director of the Institute, spoke of the special handicaps faced by Israel's publishing industry, one of which is the shortage of paper. "The paper needed for two editions of any of the great American national weeklies would suffice for Israel's book production for an entire year," he pointed out. He emphasized that there is "hunger for good reading" in Israel.

ERLICH-ALTER MEMORIAL MEETINGS REPORTED HELD IN 20 COUNTRIES

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Tribute to Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter, two leaders of the Jewish Socialist Bund in Poland who were executed in Soviet Russia in 1941, was paid here last night at a memorial meeting in the New School for Social Research. More than 1,000 persons attended the meeting. Similar memorial observances were held in 20 other countries, it was reported at the gathering.