

J T A DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

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VOL. XIX No. 27 - 34th year

Thursday, February 7, 1952

BRITISH JEWRY MOURNS DEATH OF KING; SHARETT'S VISIT CANCELLED

LONDON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Britain was plunged into mourning today at the sudden death of King George VI. Jewish organizations from all parts of the Empire and in Britain itself, including the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Zionist Federation, expressed their grief in messages of condolence to the Royal family.

The visit of Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett of Israel to Britain was cancelled as a consequence, and the Foreign Minister cut short his trip at Paris. At the same time, the Joint Palestine Appeal, which Mr. Sharett was to have launched on its 1952 campaign, announced cancellation of plans for opening the drive at an inaugural banquet next week, as scheduled. Instead, the launching of the campaign will be postponed until some time in March, at which time Mr. Sharett will come here to officiate.

Eliahu Elath, Israeli Minister to London, visited the residence of the Queen today and signed the guest book in a gesture of respect for the British King--a practice followed by the heads of diplomatic missions in this country. The Israeli flag in front of the legation here was lowered to half-mast. In a message of condolence addressed to Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, Minister Elath extended the "profound sympathy" of his government and himself for the "irreparable loss sustained by the British people through the untimely passing of their beloved ruler, King George VI."

(In Israel the flag in front of the residence of President Weizmann was half-staffed. Acting President Joseph Sprinzak sent a message of condolence to Queen Elizabeth while Premier David Ben Gurion, in his capacity of Acting Foreign Minister, sent messages of condolence to Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and to the Foreign Secretaries of all the British Dominion Governments.)

The Board of Deputies' message of condolence expressed the "deep sorrow" of British and Commonwealth Jewry. "The King's noble life was wholly devoted to the interests of his country and peoples and he will ever be gratefully remembered by his grief-stricken subjects of the Jewish faith," the Board's message added.

The British Section of the World Jewish Congress, in its message, declared that the sorrow of the Jews of Britain would be "shared by Jews all over the world who, with deep respect, have followed the reign of His Majesty and admired his humanity and ceaseless devotion throughout the many years of grave responsibility." S. Levenburg, Jewish Agency representative in Britain, declared that "the Jewish people will mourn the loss of a great friend of Israel." In addition, messages were sent by the Zionist Federation, the British executive of the Agudas Israel World Organization and the Board of Deputies of South African Jews.

ISRAEL MINISTER OF INTERIOR SEEKS ENLARGEMENT OF CABINET

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Minister of Interior Moshe Shapira, Poale Mizrahi leader, has begun negotiations with the Mapam and General Zionist Parties for their entrance into an enlarged coalitionary government, it was learned here today.

Minister Shapira told newsmen that he started the negotiations not on Premier Ben Gurion's or the Mapai Party's initiative, but on his own, because "the grave economic situation of the country requires the participation of all parties (in the government) to share the responsibility and help economic recovery."

His first contact was with the Mapam Party, which has undertaken to give him a reply within a few days. The talks with the General Zionists were described as "only exploratory" in nature. Mapam leaders such as Dr. Moshe Sneh and Yaacov Rittin have expressed the opinion that "there is no chance of our entrance into the government in the present circumstances." Centrist leaders have been more reserved in comment.

HERUT THREATENS 'WAR' ON GOVERNMENT; OPPOSES TALKS WITH GERMANY

LONDON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Nearly all newspapers in London today carried dispatches from Tel Aviv reporting that Herut leader Menahem Beigin has threatened "war" on the Ben Gurion Government if it follows through with its declared policy of negotiating directly with Germany for reparations.

The reports state that Beigin took an oath yesterday to "blot out the shame of negotiations with Germany by all means possible - even if we have to suffer prison and concentration camps."

ROME COURT POSTPONES TRIAL OF IRGUNISTS; ACCUSED LEFT ITALY

ROME, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- A Rome court this week postponed the scheduled trial of eight members of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, Jewish underground group in the days of the British Mandate over Palestine, who are charged with bombing the British Embassy in Rome five years ago.

The court's action was taken because the eight, who are still at large, have presumably left the country. The bombing occurred in November, 1946, when a large landmine buried next to the Embassy exploded.

REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIAN JEWS IN ISRAEL MEET IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- A group of over 100 delegates representing the first 3,000 Indian Jews to settle in this country met here today to discuss conditions under which they live and to exchange views and impressions of life in the Jewish State.

Speakers representing all sections of Indian Jewry here censured the small group which desires to return to India. The delegates adopted resolutions expressing joy at being the first Indian immigrants to Israel and pledged to devote their lives and their energies to building up the state.

The meeting was addressed by Chief Rabbi I. Rabinowitz of Johannesburg, who was scheduled to leave for a tour of the Far East, including India, after the conference ended. He will launch united Israeli campaigns in various Jewish communities in Asia. The conference called upon Indian Jewry to give Rabbi Rabinowitz all aid possible in the completion of his mission.

FORMER CZECH MINISTER TO ISRAEL DISAPPEARS AFTER ARRIVAL IN PRAGUE

LONDON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Edward Goldstucker, former Czechoslovak Minister in Israel, has "disappeared," it was reported here today. At the same time, it was learned that the majority of Czech Embassy officials here who have asked the British Government for political asylum in the last two years have been Jews.

Minister Goldstucker, who was appointed to represent Czechoslovakia at Tel Aviv in 1949, was informed some months ago that he was being transferred to Stockholm. He left Tel Aviv for Prague, and has not been heard from since.

Yesterday a Swedish Government spokesman revealed that Stockholm had been asked whether Goldstucker would be acceptable as Minister and that the Swedish Government agreed. Subsequently, some of his luggage arrived in the Swedish capital, but the Minister did not. Another Minister was recently assigned by Czechoslovakia.

Reports received here from Prague state that Rudolph Margolius, Jewish director of the Czech Trade Ministry, has been arrested and charged with treason.

U. N. DECIDES TO DRAFT TWO SEPARATE COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

PARIS, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Two separate international covenants on human rights--one containing political and civil rights, the other on economic, social and cultural rights--will be drafted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the U. N. General Assembly at its concluding meeting here yesterday.

The resolution was proposed by the United States and was adopted by a vote of 27 to 20, with three abstentions. Israel, the Arab countries--with the exception of Lebanon--the Soviet bloc and eight Latin American countries were among the opposing votes. The resolution stipulated that the two drafts should be ready for approval by the next General Assembly which will open in New York next fall.

COMPULSORY RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN U. S. ARMED FORCES OPPOSED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The American Civil Liberties Union today vigorously opposed as unconstitutional a reported plan for compulsory religious instruction for members of the armed services under the proposed Universal Military Training program. The basis of the protest was testimony by Admiral Thomas C. Kincaid who told the House Armed Services Committee that "religious instruction will be compulsory even for those who indicate no religious affiliation."

The U. S. Advisory Commission on Education Exchange, reporting to Congress on the government's "Campaign of Truth," said today that "a general balance is sought between Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish materials." It added that "publications of an extreme religious bias or of purely sectarian nature are not provided."

PRESIDENT OF ORTHODOX GROUP IN AUSTRIA RELEASED ON BAIL IN VIENNA

VIENNA, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Benjamin Schreiber, president of the Agudas Israel in Austria, who was arrested recently on charges of breaking the foreign trade laws, has been released on bail, it was reported here. His partner, Joseph Gergely, a Jewish displaced person from Hungary, is still in custody. Austrian authorities are continuing their investigation of the case.

JEWISH GROUPS SEEK INVESTIGATION OF ARMY BAN ON JEWISH WORKERS

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Leading Jewish organizations today requested the newly established Committee on Government Contract Compliance to give "top priority" to an investigation of discrimination against Jewish workers by the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers.

In a joint telegram, the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S., Union of American Hebrew Congregations and 27 Jewish community councils which together comprise the National Community Relations Advisory Council protested against the testimony this week of General G. J. Nold, deputy chief of engineers, before the Senate Preparedness Committee that New York workers were not being recruited for building military bases in Arab countries because the contractors believed a large number of them would be of Jewish origin and would be resented by the Arabs.

"General Nold's testimony," the protest said, "indicates that New York construction workers, both Jewish and non-Jewish, have been the victims of a discriminatory policy which runs completely counter to the provision requiring non-discrimination in government defense contracts and to the purpose for which the Committee on Government Contract Compliance was established. We urge the committee to give top priority to an investigation of this discriminatory policy, to determine how widespread it is, and to take steps to end it at once."

Criticism of the Army's policy of rejecting recruitment in New York of Jewish construction workers for employment on military bases in the Middle East was also voiced by the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith in a telegram to Secretary of the Army Frank Pace. The telegram pointed out that the Army policy "seems to make the military establishment partner to obvious evasions of Federal law as promulgated by Presidential Executive Orders Nos. 9346 and 10308.

The first order obligates employers holding government contracts not to discriminate among job applicants on racial or religious grounds. The second order holds government agencies letting contracts responsible for obtaining compliance with this regulation.

TWO-DAY ORT PARLEY OPENS IN NEW YORK; OPTIMISTIC ON NORTH AFRICA

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Confidence that the ORT vocational training centers in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya would not be affected by the Moslem nationalistic unrest prevailing in these countries was expressed here today at the biennial conference of the Women's American ORT, attended by 200 delegates from all parts of the country.

The ORT work in these countries was reviewed at the conference by Mrs. Ludwig Kaplan, president of the women's group. "The trade schools maintained by the ORT there," she told the conference, "have become indispensable instruments for the economic development of these underdeveloped nations. They have been encouraged and supported by both the French and local authorities, with whom we are on the best of terms. The projected program for the expansion of our North African schools will continue."

The conference decided to furnish a new vocational training center in Nathanya, Israel, with a complete line of modern American machines, tools and training equipment. The decision to undertake this project was made in response to a request by the municipal government of Nathanya, which has recently allocated funds for the establishment under ORT's supervision of a complete vocational training center in that rapidly growing community.

ASSOCIATION OF ENGLISH-JEWISH NEWSPAPERS MOURNS LANDAU'S DEATH

DETROIT, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- A statement mourning the death of Jacob Landau, founder of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and emphasizing that his passing is "a distinct loss to American Jewry," was issued here today by the American Association of English-Jewish Newspapers, through its president, Philip Slomovitz.

"Until the establishment of the JTA, Jews everywhere were dependent upon numerous disinterested services for the dissemination of news affecting Jewish life," the statement said. "Only in the negative aspects did AP, UP, INS fulfill the task of keeping us fully informed on what was happening to Jews. They reported pogroms and persecutions. That was news in Jewish life. The creative aspects were reduced to fillers and to incidentals.

"The JTA stepped in to fill a gap. Then came the great happenings in Jewry--the development of Palestinian settlements, the tragedies that were brought about by Nazism, the resistance of Jews to persecutions and to interferences in the Holy Land by the British and the rise of the Jewish State. These needed complete coverage, and that was possible only through a Jewish service. The JTA fulfilled this need. It became a great cause.

"Jacob Landau made the JTA possible. It was his brainchild. It was his life's work. He built it with devotion and he secured for it the respect of the entire world, non-Jews as well as Jews. We mourn his passing and we pay tribute to his memory. JTA continues to serve as the most impressive monument a person could possibly hope for."

Landau Eulogized in Broadcast Over Israel Radio Station

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The role played by Jacob Landau in developing the Jewish Telegraphic Agency as a world-wide Jewish news agency was depicted here last night in a radio broadcast by S. Z. Shazar, member of the Jewish Agency executive and former member of the Israel Cabinet.

Mr. Shazar lauded Landau's "Halutzian spirit and Zionist devotion in building a paper bridge for all parts of world Jewry thus bringing nearer and uniting the far and often estranged parts of the nation." This, he pointed out, was instrumental in the revival of national consciousness and spirit among Jews which in turn led to the strengthening of the Zionist organization. He also emphasized that Landau fought for the JTA's independence and succeeded in his "untiring efforts to achieve the fullest freedom to obtain and disseminate factual, impartial and unbiased information."

Israel's Minister of Communications David Zvi Pinkas, in a message of condolence, recalled that Landau was his schoolmate in Vienna and was in those years regarded as the leader of the Zionist youth movement in Austria.

MRS. ROOSEVELT WILL MAKE FIRST VISIT TO ISRAEL; TO STAY SIX DAYS

PARIS, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt will make her first visit to Israel in about a week, it was announced here today. She is expected to reach the Jewish State on February 14 and remain there for six days. She will enter Israel via the Old City of Jerusalem after visiting Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. From Israel she will proceed to Pakistan, India, Siam, Indonesia, the Philippines and Hawaii.