

J T A DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

Contents Copyright, Reproduction by previous arrangement

VOL. XIX No. 58 - 34th year

Monday, March 24, 1952

GERMAN-JEWISH REPARATIONS TALKS RESUME TODAY; POLICIES OUTLINED

THE HAGUE, March 23. (JTA) -- The German-Jewish reparations talks which opened here Friday in historic Washington Castle in the suburb of Wassenaar will be resumed tomorrow and will last two weeks. Then, they will be recessed to give the German delegates an opportunity to return to Bonn for further instructions from their government on the amount which West Germany is ready to pay.

Tomorrow the Israeli and Jewish delegations will start detailing their claims against West Germany and presenting the bases upon which the claims rest. The procedure followed tomorrow--and every day of the negotiations parley--will be that the Germans will meet with the Israel delegates in the morning and the non-Israeli Jewish delegation in the afternoon. There will be no meetings on Saturdays and Sundays.

The German delegation, in its opening statement Friday morning before the Israeli delegation and repeated later before the delegation of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, pointed out that it had been instructed by the West German Government to reaffirm the declaration on Jewish restitution made by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer in the Bonn Parliament last September.

"We are aware that this involves more than merely obligations to make material amends," Prof. Franz Boehm, head of the German delegation said. He then emphasized that certain facts warranted the division of the negotiations into several stages. He pointed out that:

1. Allied legislation in Germany restricts the transfer or supply of goods to foreign creditor countries.
2. The financial capacity of the West German Republic is limited in view of the total amount of her liability. The first and most important thing is that the obligations undertaken by the German Government--as far as they are to be met in foreign exchange or in the supply of goods--should be coordinated with the final overall settlement of the problem of German debts.

The objective of the first stage of the negotiations, Prof. Boehm continued, is to detail the different categories of the Israeli and Jewish claims. This, he declared, would have to include the relations between the claims and other liabilities of the West German Republic, especially liabilities to individual claimants.

The head of the German delegation then gave his government's assurances that the Israeli and Jewish claims will receive "most careful consideration." He added that upon the conclusion of the first stage of the negotiations, the Bonn Government

will decide whether the extent of the claims can be met within the scope of Germany's financial capacity and the overall settlement of German debts.

Prof. Boehm emphasized that his drawing the attention of the Israeli and Conference delegations to Germany's limited financial capacity is not due to an unwillingness to make amends for past wrongs, but to the fact that full restitution is beyond Germany's ability at present. He expressed the hope that Germany's current efforts to remedy the damage done to the Jewish people will be seen as proof of her "earnest and sincere" desire to render reparations.

Israelis Stress Negotiations Do Not Settle Moral Issue

The Israeli delegation emphasized in its opening statement that "it must be clearly understood that satisfaction of Israel's claims is not regarded as constituting in any way expiation of the fearful holocaust with 6,000,000 Jews murdered in Europe and the destruction of ancient Jewish communities and their precious spiritual possessions. These losses," the Israel spokesman declared, "cannot be made good by any material recompense. The Israel claim is thus minimal in size and symbolic in character. To settle the historic account, the hour is not yet come."

The Israeli delegation opened by presenting the full text of Israel's note of March 12, 1951 to the four Western Powers in which it set out claims of \$1,500,000,000 against Germany as the cost of resettling Nazi survivors in Israel. It announced that Israel's demands were based on this note, on Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's statement to the Bonn Parliament and his letter to Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

The statement pointed out that the Israel claim was not related to the real value of the Jewish property looted by the Nazis but was based on the expenditure incurred by Israel in resettlement of Jews who escaped the Nazi terror. While \$1,500,000,000 is claimed from Germany as a whole, it declared, the portion claimed from the West German Federal Republic was one billion dollars.

The statement said it will be the endeavor of the Israel delegation to secure payment of collective recompense as affirmed in the Israeli notes of March 12 and Nov. 30, 1951 which, it said, were endorsed by the entire Jewish people as represented by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. "The Israel delegation," it added, "enters these negotiations in the earnest expectation that they will result in full, early settlement of this claim."

Leavitt Clarifies Stand of Conference on Jewish Claims

Moses A. Leavitt, vice-chairman of the American Joint Distribution Committee, who heads the delegation representing the Conference on Jewish Material Claims, told the German delegates at the opening of the negotiations that it was their responsibility to implement in practical and concrete terms the declaration made by West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer before the Bonn Parliament.

Mr. Leavitt pointed out that while the Conference delegates are prepared to negotiate on Jewish material claims, it must be clear from the very beginning that there cannot be any negotiations on moral claims. It is for posterity to judge whether such amends could be made, he stated. He stressed the fact that the Conference wants the German Government to assume full responsibility for the discharge of restitution liabilities of the Third Reich and requested the enactment of indemnification and restitution laws for the whole of Germany.

GERMANS AT REPARATIONS PARLEY TO CONTEST ISRAELI REFUGEE FIGURES

THE HAGUE, March 23. (JTA) -- The German delegation to the reparations negotiations here intends to contest the Israeli claim that over 450,000 Jewish victims of Nazi persecution have been given refuge in the Jewish State, it was indicated here today by a member of the German delegation.

He revealed that the German delegation will claim that not all of the 450,000 were victims of German persecution, but that many of them entered German DP camps at the end of the war, having fled from the East to escape Communism. For this reason, he indicated, the Germans will claim that the figure of 450,000 as set forth by the Israelis in their note of March 12, 1951 to the Big Four Powers, is not valid as far as the Germans are concerned.

It was learned today that the talks on Friday opened in a cold and formal atmosphere. When the Israeli delegates entered the conference room to find the Germans already present, there was no handshaking or any other form of greeting. The Israeli delegation head introduced each member of his group by naming him and, at the same time, pointing to him. Then the Israeli delegation head handed the Germans his credentials.

The Israelis' opening statement was made in English and at the end of it a copy in German was handed across the table. The German opening statement was made in German with the Israelis receiving an English translation. When the statements were completed the Israelis remained behind for several minutes while the Germans left. The atmosphere was "very tense and uncomfortable as far as we were concerned," an Israeli spokesman pointed out.

Practically the same procedure was followed by the delegation of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Friday afternoon, except that the tension of the morning session was not present in the afternoon. The Israelis are staying at Waasenaar, while the Germans are at a hotel in the Hague and there is no contact between them when the conference is not in session.

LEFT-WING ISRAELI PEACE COMMITTEE ASKS HALT OF GERMAN TALKS

TEL AVIV, March 23. (JTA) -- The Mapam-Communist "Peace Committee" called on the Israel Government today to cease all contact with the Germans "who have inherited the Nazi ideals." The Government should be convinced, the committee asserted, that the "nation is against negotiations" as shown by 400,000 signatures to the peace petition.

Last night, crippled and blinded veterans of the war and Jews maimed by the Nazis, participated in a Mapam demonstration here against the Israel Government's participation in the reparations negotiations. Speakers included Adolph Berman, Mapam deputy in the Parliament, and Dr. Itzhak Gruanbaum, former Cabinet Minister. The demonstration passed quietly.

The right-wing Herut Party will hold a mass demonstration Tuesday and members of the pro-government Mapai Party are organizing a counter-demonstration. Police are taking all precautions to prevent clashes.

REDUCTION IN IMMIGRATION RESULTS IN DISMISSAL OF 500 EMPLOYEES

TEL AVIV, March 23. (JTA) -- The absorption department of the Jewish Agency today dismissed 500 employees as a result of the decrease in immigration during the last few months.

PAKISTAN MINISTER DEMANDS "SATISFACTION" FOR ARAB COUNTRIES

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- The New York Times reports that Sir Moham-med Zafrullah Khan, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, said in Karachi this week-end that the Arab states must have satisfaction on the problems of the Arab refugees and the frontier with Israel before they cooperate in a Middle East defense pact. In an interview the Foreign Minister made the following points:

1. "The most important point is that of the Arab refugees. After that is the question of frontiers. The Arab states must have satisfaction, otherwise they will not cooperate."
2. "The Arab states will at no time tolerate Israel having anything to say about the disposition of the forces within the boundaries of Arab states. While no Arab state would object to the presence of forces of another state within its frontier, for instance, one state might have more airpower available than another, they would never approve of the presence of Israeli forces."
3. "As a further note and one of caution I would like to point out that it must not be automatically assumed that the Arab states will cooperate."

Sir Zafrullah confirmed reports that he had invited the foreign ministers of 12 Moslem states to meet here in April to discuss matters of mutual interest. The nations are Afghanistan, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and Yemen.

ISRAELI MAPAM MEMBER MORDECHAI OREN ARRESTED BY CZECH AUTHORITIES

TEL AVIV, March 23. (JTA) -- The Israeli Minister to Prague, Dr. L. Kubovy, has been informed by the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry that Mordechai Oren, Israeli citizen and a member of the Mapam Party, who has been missing in Czechoslovakia since last December, is under arrest, according to information reaching the Israeli Foreign Ministry here today.

The Prague authorities said that Mr. Oren was arrested after his visa expired and is suspected of committing a criminal offense against Czechoslovakian security. This information, the first official confirmation of Mr. Oren's arrest, was given Dr. Kubovy by Vlastimil Borak, Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT OPPOSES PROJECTED LAW TO PUNISH GROUP LIBEL

LONDON, March 23. (JTA) -- Moves to include in a new law of libel and slander now being considered by the standing committee of the House of Commons provisions to punish group libels were opposed by the Government this week-end on the grounds that they would infringe on freedom of speech.

Amendments to the proposed defamation law which would provide punishment of up to two years' imprisonment for racial or religious libels were submitted by Sir Leslie Plummer, Laborite M. P., who told the committee that slanders against the Jews almost exactly paralleling those used by the Nazis, were being peddled by five or six fascist papers in England.

In opposing the amendments, Sir Reginald Manningham Buller, the Solicitor General, said he hoped no one who spoke against the clauses would be accused of not understanding the Jewish viewpoint regarding racial attacks. He said it was a fallacy to assume that the people of Germany and Britain were similar and would react similarly to anti-racial propaganda.

STATE DEPT. FAVORS IMMIGRATION BILL OPPOSED BY JEWISH GROUPS

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- Omnibus immigration legislation pending before the House, the Walter Bill which is being opposed by liberal, Jewish and non-Jewish organizations as "undemocratic" and "discriminatory," is favored by the State Department, Herve J. L'Heureux, chief of the Department's Visa Division said today. L'Heureux made this known in an address in New York before the National Council on Naturalization and Citizenship.

The visa chief said that in a letter to the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, the Department expressed the view that the House omnibus bill is a decided improvement over the existing law. "All the omnibus bills before the Congress would eliminate race as a bar to immigration and naturalization," he declared. The liberalizing features to which he referred have been described by opponents of McCarran-Walter legislation as "sugar-coating" to offset what they said were numerous objectionable features.

HIAS ADOPTS \$2, 515, 000 BUDGET FOR 1952; LAUDED BY TRUMAN

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- More than 75,000 Jewish refugees still remain in European lands outside of the Iron Curtain countries, Samuel A. Telsey, president of HIAS, reported at the 67th annual meeting of the organization held today at the Astor Hotel and attended by more than 3,000 delegates from religious, fraternal and labor groups.

The meeting decided to raise \$2, 515, 000 during 1952 for the work of HIAS. The decision followed Mr. Telsey's report that the organization has determined that "its offices in Western and Central Europe must be kept functioning, to render all possible services to the Jewish refugees."

President Truman, in a message to the meeting, lauded the work of HIAS and declared that the need for helping homeless Jews "today is no less than in years gone by." The meeting adopted a resolution opposing passage of illiberal immigration legislation now before Congress, and urging support of legislation for the pooling of unused quota numbers.

Isaac Asofsky, executive director of the organization, reported that in 1951 HIAS offices in Europe were able to effect the emigration of more than 13,000 Jews to overseas countries. The majority of these came to the United States, the remainder to Canada, Latin America and Australia. A Scroll of Honor was presented at the meeting to U.S. Senator William Benton for rendering significant services in the field of immigration.

AMERICAN, CANADIAN, TWO ISRAELIS GET WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS AWARDS

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- An American, a Canadian and two Israelis have been named winners in an essay writing contest sponsored by the Department of Culture and Education of the World Jewish Congress. The awards are named for the late Jay Joshua Marcus, son of the late Dr. Robert S. Marcus, W.J.C. political director.

A first prize of \$500 was won by Bernard Lazerwitz, of University City, Mo., for his essay "An Investigation of Jewish Identification." The second prize of \$300 was won by Benjamin Orenstein, of Montreal, for his essay "Social Problems of the Jews in the Nazi Epoch." The third prize of \$200 will be divided between two residents of Jerusalem--Samuel Kirschenbaum for his essay "The Jewish Type - An Anthropological and Psychological Review," and Dan Meiri for his work on "The Problem of the Concentration of Jewish Immigration from Russia and Poland in the Principal Cities of Western Europe."

NEW JERSEY STATE CONFERENCE NETS \$500,000 FOR UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

PATERSON, N. J., March 23. (JTA) -- More than \$500,000 in cash was presented here today to the 1952 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal as 200 Jewish leaders from major communities throughout New Jersey formally brought their state into the campaign.

This action highlighted an all-day session in the Alexander Hamilton Hotel of a regional conference which met to consider implementation of urgent immigration, settlement, welfare and rehabilitation programs in Israel, Europe, the Moslem countries and the United States. The conference heard addresses by Michal Harel, Miss Israel of 1952, and Avraham Harman, director of the Israel Embassy's Office of Information.

"GARDEN OF ISRAEL" OPENED AT INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW IN N. Y.

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- Thousands of Jews and non-Jews crowded the International Flower Show to witness the ceremony of opening the Garden of Israel, which was sponsored by the Jewish National Fund and the Israel Ministry of Agriculture, and which showed all the flowers and many a plant and vegetable which grow in Israel.

Mendel N. Fisher, executive director of the Jewish National Fund was in charge of the ceremony. Arthur Lurie, Israel Consul-General in New York, in an address, said, the garden was symbolic of Israel's victory over the desert. There was a touching moment when a group of Israel children led by Mrs. Ora Gotein, wife of Israel's Minister Plenipotentiary in Washington, presented a bouquet of flowers to a group of American children.

ELIHU D. STONE, PROMINENT NEW ENGLAND ZIONIST, DIES AT 65

BOSTON, March 23. (JTA) -- Elihu D. Stone, prominent Zionist leader in New England and one-time Assistant U.S. Attorney, died here yesterday at the age of 65.

Mr. Stone had been a vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America and chairman of the Z. O. A. executive as well as president of the New England Zionist District for 13 years. Born in Meretz, Lithuania, Mr. Stone came to the U. S. at the age of 18 and studied law in Boston. He served in the Massachusetts state legislature and for 12 years was a Federal prosecutor.

JOSEPH BRIN, ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER OF BOSTON JEWISH ADVOCATE, DEAD

BOSTON, March 23. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph C. Brin, associate publisher of The Jewish Advocate and Professor of Semantics at the Boston University, died at his home in Brookline of a heart attack. He was 54 years old.

Although he came to the United States at the age of 12 with no knowledge of English, he became an expert in the language and was the author of several books on semantics and public speaking. He was trained in law at Boston University where he received his degrees. He was a member of the Massachusetts Federal Bar and was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

- - - -