

# J T A DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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## CLAIMS CONFERENCE RATIFIES REPARATIONS PACT WITH GERMANY

NEW YORK, Sept. 24. (JTA) -- The policy committee of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, representing 23 major Jewish organizations throughout the world, today ratified agreements signed by the Conference with the West German Federal Republic and with the State of Israel under which it is to receive \$107,000,000 in settlement of material claims against Germany and under which West Germany agreed to improve its restitution and indemnification legislation.

The conference also voted to incorporate itself in order to enable it to discharge its responsibilities under the agreements.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Conference, who signed the agreement with German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer at Luxemburg, told the conference that "we are all agreed, and the majority of Jewish public opinion supports our view, that the negotiations have ended successfully for Israel and the Conference although we did not obtain all we wanted." He said that "we have achieved great improvements in restitution and indemnification for hundreds of thousands of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, even though we could not obtain German acceptance of our demands concerning Jews from Austria and a number of similar issues."

### Germans Opposed Global Payments to Conference

Dr. Goldmann disclosed that during the negotiations the Germans strenuously opposed global payment to the Conference, maintaining that material settlement should be with Israel alone and Conference negotiations should be restricted to questions of legislation. He pointed out that the concept of a global payment to a non-governmental ad hoc body possessing no juridical status in international law was admittedly unprecedented, and the achievement of securing German agreement was not only important because it enabled additional aid to Jewish victims of Nazism, but also because it established a precedent of major significance.

Referring to settlement of Israel's claims, Dr. Goldmann declared that "our support of Israel's claim was, from the very first, an important factor in obtaining Germany's commitment." The Israel Government, he declared, was appreciative of this fact. He pointed out that the settlement gives Israel a unique opportunity to build up her industry, agriculture, transportation system and power but warned that the American Jewish community "must not take the view that the goods received from Germany obviate Israel's need for financial assistance from abroad." Gains from the settlement, he said, "could quickly be converted into losses if American Jews should decide to cut down on UJA assistance and on Israel bond purchases."

Speaking of the moral implications of the agreement, Dr. Goldmann recalled the controversy over acceptance of the German bid to negotiate and said that "we would have committed a moral injustice, a sin of omission, had we refused to negotiate, however delicate and difficult it all seemed in its initial stages. Even if these

negotiations had not involved material benefits to Israel and the Jewish victims of Nazism, our generation still would have been morally bound to make every possible effort to obtain recognition of the moral principle that a nation which has committed crimes against our people, must make amends. The fact that a powerful and sovereign state has done so establishes a historic precedent of importance to all people."

Dr. Goldmann referred to the "immeasurable assistance" of Secretary of State Dean Acheson, British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and U.S. High Commissioner John J. McCloy, but said that "Germany would not have been forced into these agreements had her leaders been reluctant or unwilling."

#### Relationship Between Jews, Germans Will be Settled in Future

The Conference chairman made it clear that in his view, "the Luxemburg agreements have not settled the historical issues of the relations between the Germans and Jewry following the Nazi desecration of our people... History alone can settle them and much will depend on the future development of Germany, her desire and ability to extirpate the residues of Nazism, racism and anti-Semitism. It will take time for Germany to achieve this. I know that the German Chancellor and the President of the Federal Republic are eager to embark upon such a policy, and are already considering concrete measures in this general direction. We shall welcome such policy and look forward to its successful implementation."

Dr. Goldmann paid warm tribute to Chancellor Adenauer, saying that he had been convinced of his sincerity when he first met him in London in 1951 and received from him a letter accepting Israel's claim for one billion dollars as the basis of negotiations. He said that Dr. Adenauer's determination carried the issue over opposition within the German Government to acceptance of the global payments and the legislative program that will cost Germany up to two billion dollars, and over pressure from the Arabs.

He eulogized members of the negotiating teams and members of the Conference presidium and said that "our cooperation hitherto augurs well for the future." He told the session that, "in all humility, and without indulgence in self praise, we may state today that we have rendered a great service to Israel and to the Jewish people. May I add that I am happy for having pursued this policy, for having taken the initiative to convene the Conference and for meeting with the German Chancellor. I look back upon my effort of the past year with gratification and some measure of pride.

"Our generation of Jews witnessed the greatest disaster in all Jewish history, but also the greatest achievement in contemporary Jewish history--the creation of the State of Israel," he concluded. "The rebuilding of Jewish life from the horror perpetrated by the Nazis confronted us with unparalleled and unprecedented problems. The negotiations with Germany were among the most formidable of these problems. We met the challenge with dignity, solemnity and a high sense of responsibility. Above all else, we should be proud of our spectacular contribution towards the triumph of justice and morality."

Moses A. Leavitt, who headed the Conference negotiating team at The Hague, presented a detailed report on the legislative aspects of the agreement to which Germany had committed itself. He described it as "a program which is aimed at providing greater benefits to a larger number of victims of Nazism seeking restitution and indemnification. He expressed himself as "hopeful that the German Parlia-

ment will enact the required legislation and appropriate funds for implementation so that those victims who have waited so long would now be granted what is rightfully theirs. "

#### Ben Gurion Praises Goldmann Role in Negotiations

Premier David Ben Gurion of Israel, in a letter read to the session, praised Dr. Goldmann for "the notable part you have played in concluding the agreement on the claims to reparations from the West German Government by the State of Israel and the Jewish people. " He declared that "your energy, wisdom and tact, as well as your courage, had a decisive part in those negotiations. "

The premier stressed the importance of the participation of the Jewish organizations in the negotiations and extolled the "harmonious cooperation" between the representatives of Israel and of the Conference. He expressed the government's appreciation to the organizations "for their invaluable help, good will and dignified stand" and its thanks for "their magnificent share in this historic achievement. "

Mr. Ben Gurion said that while it was too early to assess the practical value of the agreement, "it is difficult to over-emphasize its moral and political significance." For the first time, he said, "a precedent has been established whereby a Great Power undertakes, under moral pressure only, to pay reparations to victims of its former Government. For the first time in the history of the Jewish people, oppressed and plundered for hundreds of years in all countries of the Old World, the oppressor and plunderer has had to hand back some of the spoils and pay collective compensation for part of the material losses.

"This, " the premier declared, "is without any doubt an outcome of the rebirth of the State of Israel. The rights and interests of Jewry are no longer undefended; they now have their defender. "

The premier added that the success of the negotiations "enhances the prestige of the Jewish people throughout the world and strengthens international ethics. " If fulfilled by the Germans, he said, it will serve as "an impressive contribution towards consolidating the economic independence of Israel and as a substantial compensation to those victims of Nazi persecution who are still alive. "

#### WEST GERMANY REPORTED OPENING LEGATIONS IN ARAB STATES

LONDON, Sept. 24. (JTA) -- The West German Government's decision to establish new diplomatic missions in various Middle Eastern states is influenced by the German desire to exploit trade possibilities with the Arab states rather than to iron out differences caused by the German-Israel reparations pact, as has been reported previously, the Manchester Guardian declared today.

In a dispatch from its Bonn correspondent, the Guardian reported that within the next eight weeks Bonn will establish an embassy in Cairo, legations in Iraq, Iran, Jordan and Lebanon, and consulates in Saudi Arabia and Cyrenaica.

The Guardian dispatch added that "representatives of the Ruhr steel industry have also been busy in the Middle East recently and are confident that there are good fields there for German exports of finished steel goods. "

SWITZERLAND TO RELEASE BLOCKED ASSETS OF GERMAN JEWS

LONDON, Sept. 24. (JTA) -- Assets deposited in Switzerland by Jews resident in Germany and blocked in that country as German property as a result of an agreement concluded in 1946 between the Allied and Swiss Governments, will be released shortly, according to an announcement here today by the World Jewish Congress.

The terms of a new settlement among the Allied Powers, Switzerland and the West German Federal Republic replacing the Washington agreement concerning German property in Switzerland signed May 25, 1946, are expected to be ratified shortly by the Swiss Parliament.

The new agreement provides that assets of persons who "lost their life or a considerable part of their liberty or their full German citizen rights by law, ordinances or measures of the German National Socialist Government" will be released on application without any deduction. In other instances, releases of more than 10,000 Swiss francs (approximately \$2,000) are subject to deductions of up to 50 percent.

Exemption from deductions for victims of the Nazis is in accordance with representations on the part of the WJC and the Joint Distribution Committee, in conjunction with the Swiss Union of Jewish Communities.

BAVARIAN PARTY DEMANDS AUERBACH CASE FROBE

MUNICH, Sept. 24. (JTA) -- The Bavarian Party today added its voice to the chorus demanding a full and open investigation of the trial of the late Philip Auerbach, former head of the Bavarian Restitution Office, who committed suicide here last month following his conviction on charges of fraud in office.

Auerbach, a Jew, was convicted by a five-man court, three of whose members were former Nazi Party officials. Subsequently, the chief witness against Auerbach was convicted of perjury in another case.

In a special declaration, the Bavarian Party, a Conservative group, demanded that the parliamentary commission "disclose the extent" to which Bavarian Minister-President Hans Erhard and Dr. Joseph Mueller, provincial Minister of Justice who ordered Auerbach to stand trial, were involved in the "dark financial transactions" of former Munich Chief Rabbi Aaron Ehrenstein, who was tried with Auerbach. The declaration called the Auerbach trial a "monstrous disgrace" for Bavaria and said it was not difficult to understand why foreign newspapers had drawn a parallel between it and the Dreyfus case.

NAZI COLLABORATOR IN BRITAIN PUBLISHES BOOK PRAISING HITLER

LONDON, Sept. 24. (JTA) -- Capt. A.H.M. Ramsay, a former Tory M.P. who was detained for four years during World War II as a suspected Nazi collaborator, has just published a new book praising Hitler for his attacks on the Jews.

Ramsay says that Hitler's "supreme merits" were his attacks on the Jews and his "longing" for friendship with Britain. The writer passes off the notorious forgeries, "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," as truth and classifies various world political leaders from Oliver Cromwell to Franklin D. Roosevelt either as Jews or "dupes" of Jews.

## U.N. BOARD TO ACT ON COMPLAINTS OF DISCRIMINATION URGED BY W. J. C.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Sept. 24. (JTA) -- The creation of a special United Nations board to act on reports of discrimination and mediate them with the governments concerned, was recommended today by the World Jewish Congress to the U. N. Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which is currently meeting here.

Under the W. J. C. plan, the U. N. mediation board would discuss complaints submitted by U. N. specialized agencies or consultative organizations with the representatives of the governments concerned, or, if they did not attend, without them. The board would report its findings to the Economic and Social Council or its Commission on Human Rights.

The W. J. C. also urged that nations receiving U. N. technical assistance be required to use this aid "equally for the benefit of all their inhabitants regardless of race, religion or similar characteristic."

The U. N. Sub-commission today began a general debate on practical measures to help eliminate discrimination everywhere.

## ISRAEL MINISTRIES CONSIDERING PLAN TO CUT COST OF FOOD IMPORTS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 24. (JTA) -- An Israel food import program, prepared by Oscar Gass, financial advisor to the Israel Government in Washington, which would cut food import costs by 40 percent, is being debated by the Israel Finance and Commerce ministries, it was learned today.

The Finance Ministry is said to favor the plan but the Commerce Ministry, which is responsible for food distribution and would bear the brunt of any public criticism, is said to oppose it.

The Gass plan would effect savings through reduction in quantities of certain foods purchased, substitution of cheaper foods and through taking advantage of reduced prices of other foods on the world markets.

The plan, now being considered by the interested ministries, is expected to come before the cabinet soon.

## BRITISH, FRENCH AMBASSADORS TO TEL AVIV PRESENT CREDENTIALS

TEL AVIV, Sept. 24. (JTA) -- The recently elevated British and French Ambassadors to Israel, Francis Evans and Eduard Felix Guyon, today presented their new credentials to the Acting President of Israel, Joseph Sprinzak.

A unit of paratroopers formed the guard of honor as the Ambassadors were received. A military band played first "God Save the Queen" and then the "Marseillaise." This will be the last official function in Israel for Ambassador Guyon, who is being transferred to Montevideo.

## ISRAEL ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ON LEAVE; REPLACED BY DEPUTY

TEL AVIV, Sept. 24. (JTA) -- Col. Mordechai Makleff, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Army, will succeed Chief of Staff Gen. Yigal Yadin, who has been granted leave, it was officially announced here today. Col. Makleff recently returned from a visit to the United States.

NCRAC TO CONTINUE WORK; HOLDS DOOR OPEN FOR AJC, ADL

NEW YORK, Sept. 24. (JTA) -- In withdrawing from the National Community Relations Advisory Council, the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith reject "any cooperative process" and "repudiate the basic aims and objectives of NCRAC" in whose formulation they participated, Irving Kane, NCRAC chairman, declared today.

He asserted that by their resignation, "the two organizations have done a serious disservice to their constituencies and have deeply prejudiced the realization of the ideals for which both organizations have labored for many years." He said that many had hoped that "a sense of common accountability in a common cause would have brought about a decision on the part of the American Jewish Committee and the B'nai B'rith to remain in the NCRAC."

Mr. Kane announced that the NCRAC would continue its work despite the withdrawal of the two agencies. He said that "the NCRAC will continue to discharge the responsibility placed upon it by the Jewish communities of America. Its doors will always be open to those who wish to join in meeting this responsibility and who, in the discharge of their accountability to the whole Jewish community, are prepared to participate in the joint process of planning and coordination which is the NCRAC."

He voiced belief that time would persuade the two agencies that their decision "was detrimental to the very causes to which the organizations are dedicated" and said that if and when this happened, "I am sure the two agencies will be welcomed back into the family of organizations which, through the NCRAC, seeks to create an integrated and coordinated program of community relations to serve all the Jews of the United States."

WINNIPEG COUNCIL REJECTS ANTI-BIAS BILL

WINNIPEG, Man., Sept. 24. (JTA) -- Alderman David Orlikow declared today that he would reintroduce in the Winnipeg City Council a bill which would ban discriminatory practices by public service establishments through withdrawal of their licenses.

Efforts to secure enactment of this by-law failed earlier this week when the city council, by a vote of nine to seven, rejected Orlikow's bill. Majority spokesmen argued that education rather than legislation should be used to defeat discrimination. The bill had been recommended to the council by a special sub-committee which investigated charges of discrimination here.

BERNARD LEVINTHAL, LEADER OF U.S. RABBINATE, DIES AT 88

ATLANTIC CITY, Sept. 24. (JTA) -- Rabbi Bernard Louis Levinthal, head of the Orthodox rabbinate of Philadelphia and a leader among the rabbinate of the United States, died here last night at the age of 88.

Rabbi Levinthal, who came to this country from Kovno, Russia, in 1891, founded a number of rabbinical and Orthodox groups in Philadelphia, was an honorary vice-president of the Federation of American Zionists, a member of the faculty of the Rabbinical College of America, and a member of the American Jewish Community. After World War I, Rabbi Levinthal was one of a delegation sent by the American Jewish Congress to the Versailles Peace Conference to plead the Jewish cause.