

JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE CALLS FOR BONN INDEMNITY LEGISLATION

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- Immediate passage of appropriate legislation by the West German Parliament to extend and increase benefits to all victims of Nazi persecution, was demanded today in a resolution passed by the executive committee of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

Provision for such legislation is contained in a separate protocol between the West German Government and the Conference signed in Luxemburg last summer concomitantly with the Israel-Bonn claims agreement. The Conference said it was confident that the Bonn Government "appreciates the urgency of this matter for thousands of Nazi persecutees."

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, submitted a full report on events preceding ratification of the Luxemburg pact. "Ratification of this treaty has completely borne out our faith in the sincere intentions of Chancellor Adenauer and his colleagues," Dr. Goldmann told the meeting:

"We are especially gratified by the big majority which the treaty obtained in both houses of the German Parliament," Dr. Goldmann continued. "The Social Democratic Party is to be commended for its wholehearted support of this treaty from the very beginning. Had the treaty not been ratified before the conclusion of the budget year 1952, it would have delayed essential assistance to Israel. That it was ratified within the budget year is primarily due to the indefatigable efforts of the Chancellor."

Text of Resolution Adopted by Jewish Claims Conference

The text of the resolution adopted by the Conference reads: "The executive committee of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, in session on March 23, 1953, expresses its gratification over the ratification by the Federal Republic of Germany of the treaty between the State of Israel and the Federal German Republic.

"These partial material amends for the losses suffered by the Jewish people under Nazi rule have been brought about by the sincerity, cooperation and indefatigable effort of Chancellor Adenauer, his colleagues in the coalition government the German Social Democratic Party, the German trade union movement and church groups, as well as other bodies and persons, speaking for the best elements in the land. To all these, the Conference expresses its deep appreciation.

"The Conference, furthermore, draws special attention to the plight of thousands of individuals throughout the world victimized by the Nazi regime. The German Government has pledged the passage of special legislation by the German Parliament to extend and increase indemnification to all categories of Nazi persecutees. The Conference, accordingly, calls on Chancellor Adenauer, his colleagues in the Government and all forces of goodwill in West Germany to bring about speedy implementation of this pledge, as a matter of great urgency for multitudes, who have every right to expect that their claims, rooted in tragedy, be dealt with promptly and expeditiously.

"The Conference is confident that the German Federal Republic is fully aware of its obligations and will demonstrate this awareness by immediate introduction of appropriate legislation in accordance with provisions contained in its agreement with the Conference."

GERMAN-ISRAEL REPARATIONS PACT PROMULGATED IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE

BONN, March 23. (JTA) -- The final, formal step in the West German ratification of the reparations agreement with Israel was completed today when the pact was promulgated in the Official Gazette of the German Federal Republic. Only an exchange of ratification instruments in the office of the United Nations Secretary General in New York this week remains before the treaty enters into force.

(In London today, the Daily Express published an interview with Hjalmar Schacht, Hitler's financial "wizard," in which the ex-Nazi called the Bonn Government's agreement to pay Israel reparations "the height of stupidity." Dr. Schacht said that it was stupid for the German Government to "start all that reparations business over again. We cannot pay anything like that. We will see where it lands us.")

The first Israel film shown in Germany was viewed here today by President Theodor Heuss of West Germany who accepted an invitation to the premiere extended by the Central Council of Jews of Germany. The movie was "Tent City."

ARAB LEAGUE TO CONSIDER TIGHTENING OF BLOCKADE AGAINST ISRAEL

LONDON, March 23. (JTA) -- The Arab League Council which opens in Cairo this Saturday will consider measures to tighten the Arab blockade against Israel, the London Times reported today. The newspaper pointed out that the ratification of the German-Israel reparations pact presents the Arab League with an "awkward problem."

After detailing the serious effects of the blockade up to now, the Times said that "there is now a proposal (before the Council) to ban every bank and business house which has dealings of any kind with Israel." At the same time, the Times pointed out that Israel will receive an economic impetus from the German reparations payments and that the Arabs are faced with the choice of seeing their blockade negated or of extending it to Germany at a time when the Arabs themselves need German goods.

EGYPTIAN DICTATOR SAYS BLOCKADING ISRAEL REPLACES WAR

WASHINGTON, March 23. (JTA) -- Egyptian dictator Mohammed Naguib, in an interview released here today by U. S. and World Report, described his negotiations with the State Department for military aid and branded Zionist fears of aggression as "just Israeli propaganda."

Gen. Naguib declined to give details of the amount or nature of the munitions he is seeking, but indicated that Egypt is looking to the United States with anticipation of closer economic and military bonds. Told that "some people in the United States are afraid that if military aid is given Egypt, you will attack Israel," Gen. Naguib replied:

"We are now doing better without war, by blockading Israel. It has the same effect as war. Why should I endanger my country and open it to air raids by launching war? I would lose the confidence of all the big nations. They would consider me aggressive.

"All this talk," Gen. Naguib said, "is just Israeli propaganda. I don't think they will attack us. They know we are not thinking of attacking them. We have enough means of pressure and do not think of foolish things like that. I have fortunately gained the confidence of nearly all the nations. Our movement is being regarded with sympathy and we are beginning to feel the results in financial help and so on. It is not easy to lose all this by committing a folly, the end of which cannot be known to anyone."

PROF. BENJAMIN MAZAR ELECTED PRESIDENT OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY

JERUSALEM, March 23. (JTA) -- The board of governors of the Hebrew University last night opened a regular session with a meeting devoted to the memory of the late President Weizmann, one of the founders of the institution. The sessions are being attended by 23 members of the board who reside in Israel and a number from the United States, Britain, Switzerland and Sweden.

Prof. Benjamin Mazar, rector of the University, was today named president of the institution for a two-year period. The board of governors also decided that Prof. Mazar should continue as rector during the period. It also named Israel President Isaac Ben Zvi honorary president of the institution.

Earlier, Zalman Shazar, member of the Jewish Agency executive, reported to the session that the Agency had allocated 250,000 pounds to the University and that negotiations are going on for including the institution in the campaign of the United Jewish Appeal. Dr. Israel Wechsler, American member of the board of governors, who presided at today's meeting, reported that the University had obtained \$150,000 from the Julius and Miriam Schneider Fund for Neuropsychiatry.

Other problems to be discussed by the board at this session will include the reconstruction of the University now that the government has granted it an acceptable new site, and academic organizational matters, including a new procedure for making appointments to the staff and granting promotions.

ISRAEL SELLS CEMENT FOR U.S. MILITARY BASES IN TURKEY

TEL AVIV, March 23. (JTA) -- Israel has sold 32,000 tons of local cement for the building of American military bases in Turkey and orders for an additional 100,000 tons have already been placed with local cement producers, it was announced here today by the Ministry of Commerce.

The announcement said that Israel had used the income received from the cement sales in Turkey to purchase Turkish wheat. It was also revealed that the government is contemplating introducing a still more favorable rate of exchange for tourists this year to encourage the flow of more dollars to the Jewish State.

ISRAEL TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF COUNTRY'S ELECTRIC POWER

LONDON, March 23. (JTA) -- An understanding on increasing the production of electric power in Israel has been reached between representatives of the Government of Israel and the board of the Palestine Electric Corporation, the Israel Embassy announced here today.

The announcement pointed out that the understanding was subject to approval by the Israel Government and the stockholders of the PEC. Israel Attorney General Chaim Cohen had participated in the discussions.

ISRAELIS TO SUE SOVIET FOR FAILING TO CARRY OUT AGREEMENT

TEL AVIV, March 23. (JTA) -- The Israel Citrus Marketing Board is expected to sue the Soviet importing company Turgo for failure to execute a commercial agreement involving the importation of 400,000 cases of Israel citrus products. The Russians accepted only 140,000 cases of fruit. At that point the USSR broke off diplomatic relations with Israel and the imports were halted.

COMMUNISTS CAUGHT SMUGGLING DOCUMENTS OUT OF ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 23. (JTA) -- Various documents including some attacking Israel and Zionism which had not been passed by the censors were today found on members of a Communist delegation which departed for Budapest to attend a Communist youth parley. The documents were confiscated by the police.

The Israel Supreme Court today ordered the Ministry of the Interior to show cause why it should not cancel the Ministry's ten-day suspension of the Communist daily newspaper Kol Haam. At the request of the Ministry the court granted it more time to prepare its arguments, but in the meantime permitted Kol Haam to resume publication tomorrow pending final action on the case.

The Ministry suspended the newspaper last week for the publication of a report that Israel's Minister to Washington, Abba S. Eban, had allegedly told an Israel bond conference in Washington that Israel would supply the United States with 200,000 troops for use against the Soviet Union when the time came.

FOLLOWERS OF DR. SNEH PICKET MAPAM OFFICES IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, March 23. (JTA) -- Members of the Mapam collective settlement of Kibbutz Yad Hanna who support Dr. Moshe Sneh's views on the Prague trial today began picketing the headquarters of the Mapam agricultural department here.

The picketers protested a decision of the Mapam authorities to appoint a commission to settle a dispute in Yad Hanna--where most of the members support Dr. Sneh--between the pro and anti-Sneh forces. They also protested the refusal of headquarters to grant ration allowances for 27 pro-Sneh settlers who came to Yad Hanna from Kibbutz Yaron where they were expelled for their political opinions.

CZECH DELEGATE REFERS TO ZIONIST "ESPIONAGE" IN U. N. DEBATE

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 23. (JTA) -- Czech Foreign Minister Vaclav David today made only passing reference to Jews in opening a debate in the United Nations Political Committee on a Czech agenda item entitled "The Interference of the United States in the Internal Affairs of Other States."

The Czech Minister mentioned Jews in connection with the Slansky case, during which he charged that the American Government had planned subversion against the Czech state for a long time and had used "Tito spies" in its activities. He also spoke of the "espionage activities of Zionist organizations," in this connection. At another point in his speech, Mr. David said that United States diplomats in their "anti-state activities" had recruited newspapermen and "members of humanitarian organizations"--an oblique reference to the Joint Distribution Committee.

NORWAY RATIFIES U. N. CONVENTION ON STATUS OF REFUGEES

UNITED NATIONS, March 23. (JTA) -- Norway today became the second government to deposit with the U. N. Secretary General its ratification of the convention relating to the status of refugees, which was adopted in July 1951 and needs a total of six ratifications or accessions to bring it into force. The ratification was presented by Erik Dons, deputy representative of Norway to the United Nations.

The convention establishes minimum rights for refugees under the mandate of the U. N. High Commissioner, including rights concerning wage-earning employment, education, public relief and religion. It also establishes a procedure for issuance of travel documents to refugees.

JEWISH CONGRESS LEADERS URGED TO CONTINUE FIGHT ON MCCARRAN ACT

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- The fight against the McCarran-Walter immigration law "must continue until the national origins quota system is abolished," Dr. David Petegorsky, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, declared yesterday at the concluding session of a two-day quarterly meeting of the AJC national administrative committee. Two hundred and fifty AJC leaders from all parts of the country attended the meetings. Dr. Petegorsky also told the meeting that "there is encouraging evidence that more and more Americans are becoming alarmed by the continuing abuse of the powers of Congressional investigation."

Shad Polier, chairman of the organization's executive committee, asserted that while prospects for extensive gains in civil rights during the next few years are not encouraging, important progress in some areas can be achieved. He suggested that if progress cannot be made toward Federal compulsory legislation against discrimination, the civil rights groups should investigate the possibility of working with voluntary programs. "General Eisenhower has indicated his belief in the ability of voluntary effort to meet the problem of discrimination," Mr. Polier pointed out.

The AJC representative in Washington, Sanford Bolz, reported that while measures to strengthen and expand basic democratic liberties are not likely to emanate from the White House, Americans may be assured that President Eisenhower "will not tolerate discrimination or infringement of fundamental freedoms to the extent that he can be made to see problems in that context." Mr. Bolz added that threats to American civil liberties do not come from the advent of the new Administration in Washington, but from other directions.

Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, director of the international affairs department of the World Jewish Congress, told the meeting that anxiety in the Jewish communities throughout Europe over the forcible conversion of the two Finaly children in France is second only to concern over the future of Jews in the Soviet countries. He predicted that unless the two Jewish boys are returned to their family and the jurisdiction of the French courts, the case may do more damage to the cause of French unity than the Dreyfus affair.

170,000 JEWS RESIDE IN FOUR LARGE CANADIAN CITIES, SURVEY SHOWS

MONTREAL, March 23. (JTA) -- The number of Jews of the four largest Jewish communities in Canada now exceeds 170,000, it was revealed here by the Canadian Jewish Congress after a study of the results of the Canadian census of 1951. The Congress revealed that metropolitan Montreal, foremost among the Jewish communities, numbered 80,829 in 1951, while metropolitan Toronto had 66,773, metropolitan Winnipeg, 18,514 and metropolitan Vancouver, 5,466.

ALLIANCE ISRAELITE UNIVERSELLE OPENS TWO NEW SCHOOLS IN MOROCCO

PARIS, March 23. (JTA) -- The Alliance Israelite Universelle has opened two new schools for Jewish children in remote parts of French Morocco, the headquarters of the Alliance announced here. The Alliance now provides schooling for more than 50,000 Jewish children in Israel and Mediterranean countries.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DR. HAYIM GREENBERG HELD IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, March 23. (JTA) -- The Mapai Party last night held an impressive memorial service here for Dr. Hayim Greenberg, the late American Labor Zionist leader. Among the speakers who eulogized Dr. Greenberg were: Meir Argov, chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee; Berl Locker, co-chairman of the Jewish Agency executive; and Zalman Shazar, member of the Agency executive.