

J T A DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

Contents Copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement

VOL. XX No. 160 - 35th year

Wednesday, August 19, 1953

U.S. RECOGNIZES PRESENT ISRAEL-ARAB BOUNDARIES AS VALID

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- The United States stands pat on its announced intention of taking action to prevent any violations of the Israel-Arab armistice lines, the State Department has informed Rep. Edna F. Kelly, of New York.

Thurston B. Morton, Assistant Secretary of State, in answer to a query by the Congresswoman, said of the present Israel-Arab boundaries that "the United States Government takes no position other than to recognize these as valid armistice lines until agreement is reached on permanent boundaries between the countries concerned."

"Meanwhile," he pointed out, "the United States continues to be guided in its policy on such matters by Point 3 of the Tripartite Declaration of May 25, 1950, issued by the United States, the United Kingdom and France."

Mr. Morton quoted this declaration as reading in part: "The three governments, should they find that any of these states (Israel or Arab states involved) was preparing to violate frontiers or armistice lines, would, consistently with their obligations as members of the United Nations, immediately take action, both within and outside the United Nations to prevent such violation."

Regarding the Israel position on the boundary dispute, Mr. Morton said he understood "that Foreign Minister Sharett indicated in the course of a speech in the Israel Parliament on June 17, 1953, that peace between Israel and its neighbors can be based only upon the existing situation as regards both territory and population."

DANGER OF CABINET CRISIS IN ISRAEL AVERTED; AGREEMENT REACHED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- The danger of a Cabinet crisis in Israel was removed here today at an extraordinary session of the Cabinet at which agreement was reached over the rights and prerogatives of the Minister of Interior.

The basic agreement was hammered out at a conference last night of Moshe Sharett, Acting Premier, and Minister without portfolio Pinhas Lavon--who represented the Mapai--and Minister of Health Joseph Serlin and Minister of Communications Joseph Saphir--representing the General Zionists.

The dispute, which had been brewing in the municipalities where many Mapai councilors and mayors resented some of the regulations promulgated by Interior Minister Israel Rokach, broke out at Sunday's weekly Cabinet meeting. Minister

Lavon, voicing the complaints of the municipalities, questioned Mr. Rokach's handling of their problems. Mr. Rokach, defending his policies, reportedly threatened to resign.

Today's agreement provides that the municipalities will be bound by the instructions of the Minister of Interior on all matters relating to local by-laws and municipal taxation. In one specific case, involving the area of jurisdiction of Givat Hayim, the matter was left for final decision by Premier David Ben Gurion.

END OF ALL FOOD RATIONING IN ISRAEL FORECAST BY MINISTER

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- The end of all food rationing in Israel within six months was forecast here last night by Minister of Trade and Industry Dr. Peretz Bernstein, in a speech in Parliament.

Replying to criticism of his Ministry during a discussion of the appropriation for his department, Dr. Bernstein said that the policy of relaxing controls instituted by him had already shown positive results. He insisted that "to the extent that we are able to increase the rate of decontrol and open the way to real competition, we can hope for better quality and perhaps even lower prices."

SHARETT SAYS JEWS IN IRON CURTAIN LANDS ARE "TRAGICALLY ISOLATED"

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- Israel's Acting Premier, Moshe Sharett, today contrasted the situation of the 2,500,000 Jews in the Communist lands of Eastern Europe with that of the millions of Jews in the Western democracies, in an address to a rally of Jewish students from abroad who were about to return to their homelands after a period of work, schooling and other training in Israel.

He spoke of the Jews in the Communist lands as "tragically isolated behind the Iron Curtain" and cut off from all contact with Jews in other lands. He said it was fortunate that two-thirds of the world's Jews lived in the "free democracies" and could maintain bonds with Israel. He also envisaged a "worldwide fraternity of Jews" abroad united by and centered on Israel. He told the 600 students at the rally that while Israel needed them, they needed the Jewish State more.

Eliahu Dobkin, Jewish Agency member, who organized the summer program, said that it had reached a peak this summer with 1,120 students from abroad participating. In reply to the Acting Premier and Mr. Dobkin, students from Morocco, Denmark, Argentine, Italy, United States and many other countries came to the platform to describe their work and study in the Jewish State. The rally closed with memorial services at the tomb of Theodor Herzl.

RELEASE OF ISRAELI MAPAM LEADER IN PRAGUE CONSIDERED IMMINENT

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- The release of Mordecai Oren, Israeli citizen and Mapam leader imprisoned in Prague on charges of espionage and anti-state activities, is imminent, Menahem Bader, member of the left-wing Mapam central committee, said today.

Mr. Bader, who has just returned from a trip to Prague, said that the release of a British and an Italian national convicted of espionage in Hungary, had increased hopes for Mr. Oren's release.

SOVIET AUTHORITIES PERMIT EL AL PLANES TO LAND IN VIENNA

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- El Al Israel National Airlines will resume service to Vienna next week, it was announced here today. Service was discontinued after the Soviet Union broke off diplomatic relations with Israel last February and the Soviet authorities at the Vienna field refused to permit Israeli planes to land.

687 JEWISH "RETURNEES" REGISTER IN FOHRENWALD DP CAMP

MUNICH, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- A total of 687 "illegal" residents of Fohrenwald, the last remaining camp for displaced Jews in Germany, registered in the special census ordered Sunday by the Bavarian officials, it was reported here today.

The nearly 700 who registered before last night's deadline are men, women and children who left Germany after the war and have since returned to it from Israel and other countries. Because these Jews came to Germany a second time without entrance visas and residence permits they have been labelled "illegals" by the German officials. The DP's come to Germany in the hope of being able to emigrate from here to the United States, Canada or other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

In an attempt to discourage the return of the Jewish DP's, the authorities have arrested some of them and deported them. Last week, faced with the possibility of further arrests and expulsions, the returnees held a sit-down strike in the offices of the Joint Distribution Committee until they were promised that their expulsion would be held up temporarily.

AMERICAN JEWISH SOLDIER SUES GERMAN TRUST FOR \$200,000 IN DAMAGES

HEIDELBERG, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- An American occupation soldier stationed in this city, Pfc. Rudolf Wachsmann, has brought suit in the court of the U. S. High Commission against the IG-Farben chemical trust, asking the equivalent of \$200,000 in back pay and damages for slave labor performed and sufferings endured by him during the Nazi era in the notorious Buna-Monowitz synthetic rubber plant.

Solely because he is a Jew, Wachsmann was taken to a concentration camp from his native Oppeln, in Upper Silesia, when he was not quite 14 years old. In 1943 he was transferred to the extermination camp at Oswiecim and assigned to work at Monowitz in a plant constructed there by IG-Farben to reap benefit from the unpaid exploitation of concentration camp labor. He remained at the camp till 1945, then was shipped to Buchenwald and later was liberated by American troops. He immigrated to the United States under the DP Act and was drafted into the Army last year.

Wachsmann's mother and brother were killed in the gas chambers of Oswiecim. His father was beaten to death before his eyes. He himself suffered beatings and tortures, including hanging by the wrists in mid-air, as well as two skull fractures, two broken ribs, a broken arm, and a broken leg.

His American attorneys, M. Philip Lorber and Henry G. Vogel, both of New York but now practicing in Heidelberg, are demanding some \$180,000 in damages, interest, costs and attorneys' fees for permanent impairment of body and mind, and a further \$18,000 in back pay.

Because he is a member of the U. S. occupation forces, Wachsmann was able to bring this civil action before a court of the U. S. High Commission. It is not yet certain, however, whether the American court will accept jurisdiction.

Last month Norbert Wollheim, a German Jew now living in New York who was a Monowitz slave laborer at the same time as Wachsmann, but who did not claim irreparable impairment of his mental and physical health, won a \$2,500 judgment for back pay and damages in a German lower court. That verdict has been appealed to a German Superior Court by the IG-Farben trust.

DR. GOLDSTEIN DEFINES RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND U.S. JEWRY

NEW YORK, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress, who returned today from the recent session of the World Jewish Congress in Geneva, issued a statement replying to Senator Herbert H. Lehman on the relationship between Israel and American Jewry.

In his statement made upon disembarking from the S. S. United States, Dr. Goldstein expressed regret that misinterpretation of expressions made in Geneva by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, on the question of relationships between Israel and Jews in other lands, had given rise to needless controversy in this country.

"I regard it as most unfortunate that, because of a misunderstanding of a statement by Dr. Goldmann, an issue has been artificially created where none in fact exists," Dr. Goldstein said. "A grave injustice has been done both to Dr. Goldmann and to the organization which he heads. In the very speech for which he was attacked, Dr. Goldmann clearly stated his position--one from which he has never deviated--which is, in his own words, that: 'It is a fundamental error to regard Israel as the only center of Jewish life.' To have interpreted his own remarks as implying that all Jews throughout the world should regard themselves as potential Israelis is in complete contradiction to his beliefs.

"The unity of the Jewish people, which the World Jewish Congress affirms, is the unity forged by common history and by common religious, ethical and cultural values and not that of any common political allegiance," Dr. Goldstein continued. "We have always made it clear that Jews in all lands owe their political allegiance only to the countries of their citizenships.

"The World Jewish Congress has affirmed the right of Jews to live where they choose, to develop their cultural and spiritual life freely and fully, to contribute in freedom and equality to the societies in which they live and to assist the development and growth of Israel in every possible way. No one has been a more consistent spokesman for that point of view than Dr. Goldmann, who, with Stephen Wise, was one of the prime architects of the World Jewish Congress.

"There is certainly no difference of opinion between Senator Lehman and ourselves on the right of American Jews to go to Israel and that, in his own words, 'Americans who wish to contribute their technical skills to Israel and find it possible to go there, are contributing to a good purpose.' To emphasize Israel's urgent needs of such skills, as Dr. Goldmann did in Geneva, can by no stretch of the imagination be construed as an expression of divided loyalty," Dr. Goldstein concluded.

JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO CANADA REPORTED DECREASED BY 29 PERCENT

MONTREAL, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- A total of 1,653 Jewish immigrants entered Canada at its ocean ports in the first five months of 1953 as compared with 2,326 during the same period of 1952, the Canadian Jewish Congress has revealed. While all immigration into Canada dropped 27 percent in the 1953 period as compared to the 1952 period, Jewish immigration decreased by 29 percent.

Jewish immigrants to Canada ranked fourth in number of immigrants of non-British origin during the first five months of 1953, coming next to those of German, Dutch and Italian origin, while Jewish immigrants during the first five months of 1952 ranked sixth in number of immigrants of non-British origin, coming next to those of German, Italian, Dutch, Polish and French origin.

VANDALS DESECRATE WINNIPEG SYNAGOGUE; DESTROY ANCIENT SCROLLS

WINNIPEG, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- A gang of young hooligans has desecrated the sacred Scrolls and other religious objects at the Beth Yaakov Synagogue here. A group of youngsters has been detained by the police. However, the president of the congregation believes that the attack was organized with the aid or direction of adults.

The vandals left the interior of the synagogue, North Winnipeg's oldest, a mass of torn Scrolls, desecrated sacred objects and broken glass. They entered both Arks, carried out the heavy Scrolls, ripped off the heavy velvet covers, tore the ancient calfskin parchment, and strewed the remains around the synagogue and the yard outside.

They smashed pews, broke light bulbs, wrecked a prized candelabra and tore phylacteries and prayer-shawls. Some of the Scrolls were 300 or more years old, brought here by immigrants from Europe where they had been treasured and handed down through the generations. It was the third time--although much the worst--that vandals had damaged the synagogue in recent weeks. Twice before windows were broken.

U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL PLEDGES ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS LAW

DENVER, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- The Department of Justice will enforce civil rights laws even if they conflict with state legislation, Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. declared here yesterday at a meeting.

He also took credit for his department for the ending of segregation in Washington, D.C., restaurants. It had been ended by the Justice Department's carrying the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, he said, adding that "there has not been a bit of trouble" in the nation's capital over the decision ending segregation in public eating places.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL TAX EXEMPTION LAW UPSET IN CALIFORNIA COURT

OAKLAND, Calif., Aug. 18. (JTA) -- A California court yesterday ruled unconstitutional a law giving private non-profit schools--chiefly parochial schools--tax exemptions. The decision of the Alameda County State Superior Court will be appealed to the State Supreme Court.

The judge who announced the decision said that the law exempting parochial schools from taxation conflicted with an article of the state Constitution which permitted tax exemptions to hospitals and religious and charitable institutions. The Constitution makes no mention of educational institutions and on this basis the judge ruled out the law giving tax relief to private schools.

ASSOCIATION FOR LABOR ISRAEL IN WESTERN CANADA HOLDS CONVENTION

SASKATOON, Sask., Aug. 18. (JTA) -- A total of \$265,000 has been raised from 30,000 contributors in the past two years by the Association for Labor Israel of Western Canada, it was reported here today at the organization's eight biennial conference. The goal for the next two-year period has been raised to \$300,000. The guest speakers at the conference were Dr. Mae Bere of Tel Aviv and Joseph Schlossberg, chairman of the National Committee for Labor Israel of the U. S.