



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. XXI No. 4 - 36th year

Thursday, January 7, 1964

STATE DEPT. COOL TO ISRAEL'S DEMAND FOR DIRECT TALKS WITH JORDAN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Department of State sources today indicated that the Secretary General of the United Nations is checking with the United States Government to determine the American attitude toward Jordan's action in evading Israel's demand for direct high-level talks under Article XII of the Israel-Jordan armistice agreement by means of a counter-proposal. It was indicated here that the State Department has no inclination to be harsh on Jordan in this matter. High officials feel that they are not sure the article had to be invoked.

If talks between Jordan and Israel could be brought about in some other way, the United States would support a Jordanian alternative solution which suggests that the talks be conducted through the United Mixed Armistice Commission. The Department would be glad to see any meeting, it was said, as long as the basic issues were discussed. It was stressed that Secretary of State Dulles' expression last week in favor of direct Israel-Jordan talks should not be interpreted as an indorsement of Israel's invocation of Article XII as such, but as only an expression generally in favor of the idea of Israel-Jordan negotiations.

It was emphasized that the United States is not convinced that Article XII should be firmly enforced at this time because it is felt some other way, less offensive to Jordan, may be found to bring about the talks desired by Israel.

There was a tendency here to feel that Israel might be "over-emotional" in trying to "force the issue" and thereby "not facilitating" United Nations efforts to calmly arrive at a solution agreeable to both Jordan and Israel. The Israel Government, however, feels its move in invoking Article XII to be a logical and necessary step to force Jordan into a situation in which it would have to discuss questions vital to peace and security in the area.

Israel views Jordan's reply to the United Nations as a trick and an evasion of the fundamental issue by introduction of a counter-proposal. Israelis feel that Article XII makes an Israel-Jordan meeting mandatory and that the United Nations should support the armistice agreement which it helped bring into being.

(Israeli circles at the United Nations today declined to comment on Jordan's suggestion to the UN that instead of direct high-level Jordan-Israel talks on the armistice agreement, such talks be conducted through the Mixed Armistice Commission. It is understood that the Israel Government feels that the issue is no longer an Israel-Jordan question, but a question affecting the prestige of the UN, and therefore must be handled by the UN. Jordan's refusal to comply with Article XII is considered an attempt to defy the UN authority.)

ISRAEL EXPECTS TO GET \$74,000,000 FROM GERMANY DURING YEAR

COLOGNE, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The West German-Israel Reparations Commission, which formally held its first meeting here today, is expected to fix the total value of West German reparations payments to Israel in the fiscal year beginning April 1 at the equivalent of \$74,000,000.

The commission meeting was preceded by three months of preliminary negotiations by a mixed group of technical experts who prepared for the final drafting of goods schedules to be laid down by the commission. The commission deliberations are expected to last for a number of weeks.

GERMANY TO PLACE \$18,000,000 AT ISRAEL'S DISPOSAL IN BRITAIN

LONDON, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Arrangements have been completed for West Germany to place at the disposal of Israel a sum equivalent to nearly \$18,000,000 in blocked sterling accounts for the purchase of oil by Israel, the press reported here today.

This is the second such allocation of German funds in Britain to be used for Israeli oil purchases from British Commonwealth nations; the first allocation, for twice the present one, will expire in March of this year. The funds thus advanced are charged against reparations payments due Israel from Bonn.

AUSTRIA CRITICIZED FOR REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE JEWISH CLAIMS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Criticism of the Austrian Government for refusing to pay claims for heirless Jewish property left by families who were annihilated by the Nazis in Austria was voiced in an editorial in the Washington Post. Pointing out that compensation for heirless property is "a moral obligation," the editorial says:

"Although Austria was never quite so Nazified as Germany and was, in fact, an occupied country throughout the war, it had its full share of Nazi barbarians; one-third of the Jewish population of Austria died before Nazism was subdued. As a result of this hideous pogrom, a substantial mass of the property belonging to Jewish victims went into the Austrian economy.

"It is possible to effect restoration or restitution of property to which there are living, identifiable heirs. With respect to confiscated property to which there are no surviving heirs, however, the only just and appropriate solution seems to be to place it in a general fund to be used for the relief and rehabilitation of needy survivors. This is the solution which the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria has sought to bring about and on which it has been negotiating with the Austrian Government since last June.

"Unfortunately these negotiations now seem to have reached a deadlock. The Austrian Government has come to a sudden determination that the claims cannot be discussed until six months after an Austrian peace treaty has been signed. This position seems an extremely legalistic one which ignores not only the pressing needs of many of the Jews who suffered and survived Nazi persecution but overlooks the important moral values involved.

"The Germans set a healthy example in the agreement regarding restitution of heirless property made with the Israeli Government some months ago. Such restitution is a moral obligation. The more speedily it is acknowledged and discharged, the more suitably it will serve to help persecutees and to make amends for a shameful record."

MOSCOW ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF BARTER TALKS WITH ISRAEL

LONDON, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The completion of negotiations for the purchase by Israel of 750,000 barrels of Soviet oil in exchange for Israeli citrus products and bananas was announced by the Moscow radio last night. The broadcast quoted Dr. Zev Argaman, economic counselor to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, who concluded the negotiations in Moscow, to the effect that the arrangements were "very satisfactory."

The London press, commenting on the two-month long Israel-Soviet trade talks, held out the possibility of Israel accepting Russian crude oil to replace Venezuelan oil which it is now receiving, at least to the maximum extent of the barter agreement. They pointed out, too, that the USSR is now Israel's second best customer for citrus fruit, after Britain.

KNESSET DEBATES REMOVAL OF LEGAL LIMITATIONS OF PALESTINE ARABS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The Arabs in Israel have doubled the area of land under cultivation since the state was established, Finance Minister Levi Eshkol told Parliament today. He also reported that Arab produce grown during 1953 was valued at 25,000,000 pounds.

Mr. Eshkol made his statements during a debate in Parliament on a bill to remove a five-year statute of limitations on suits by or against Arabs who fled Israel. The bill passed its first reading.

Mr. Eshkol revealed that as of Dec. 3, 1953, the government had settled claims by Arabs who fled Israel and later returned, for land totalling 262,000 dunams (65,900 acres). Under the law, land abandoned by such refugees must be returned to them upon their return. If this proves impossible an alternate tract must be given them or monetary compensation must be paid.

During the debate on the statute of limitations bill, Aharon Zisling, Mapam deputy, charged that the government "discriminates against the Arabs." The Minister asserted that making such allegations was "similar to siding with the enemy." The Minister charged that in most cases Arab claims could have been settled easily had the claimants not been persuaded "for unholy reasons" not to accept the proffered settlements.

The Israel Ministry of Welfare has allotted 120,000 pounds for welfare work among former Arab refugees in Israel during the 1953-54 fiscal year, it was announced today. This compares with 75,000 pounds allotted last year.

EGYPT WILL NOT ATTACK ISRAEL, PREMIER ASSURES BRITISH DEPUTY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Aneurin Bevan, British Labor Party leader, was told by Egyptian Premier Gen. Mohamed Naguib that he would not attack Israel, Mr. Bevan told a group of Israeli Parliamentary deputies with whom he met here last night.

Mr. Bevan, who visited the Knesset building as a guest of Speaker Joseph Sprinzak, repeated a conversation he had had recently with the Egyptian "strong man." He said that Gen. Naguib had declared: "I shall not attack Israel. Only a crazy man would wish to start a war in the Middle East, which would almost certainly develop into a world war."

It is understood that Mr. Bevan expressed the opinion that the Arab states could not at this time come to an agreement with such a "dynamic force" as Israel. The Arab states, particularly Jordan, feel that any relaxation of their pressure on Israel would "encourage" Israel in what they believe to be her expansionist policy, Mr. Bevan told the Israelis.

WISDOM OF PLAN TO SUPPLY U.S. ARMS TO ARAB LANDS IS QUESTIONED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The wisdom of the United States granting military aid to Arab League states has been questioned here by the Washington Post in an editorial which points out that the Arab countries for whom such aid is being planned are still at war with Israel.

"No real stability is possible," said the Post, "so long as the Arab-Israel conflict remains a running sore. Accordingly, it is a moot question whether the scattering of American arms in this area has served the cause of free world defense or would do so in the near future."

Mentioning reports that Iraq and Saudi Arabia are about to receive U.S. munitions, the Post pointed out that "both Saudi Arabia and Iraq are members of the Arab League, which still has not made peace with Israel. If military aid were given these countries, there would have to be rigorous checks to make sure that they did not misuse it or undertake new military adventures with their own weapons, freed by the American aid," the paper emphasized.

(The New York Herald Tribune, in an editorial on this subject, warned the State Department against "hasty action" in furnishing military equipment to any of the Moslem nations. It suggested the continuation of "steady diplomatic efforts" to bring about regional unity in the Middle East.)

1 JEWISH MEMBER OF GERMAN PARLIAMENT ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Jakob Altmaier, a member of the German Bundestag and one of the first Jewish officials of the German Government in 20 years, has arrived in Washington on a visit. He met with Sen. Herbert H. Lehman, German Ambassador Heinz Krekler and others.

He said that West Germany today is free from "official anti-Semitism." A former refugee who returned to Germany to become a Social Democratic deputy in Bonn, Mr. Altmaier stated: "Officials from the Chancellor down are pro-Semitic, not the slightest anti-Jewish utterance is heard in Parliament. There exists in the population some incurable Nazis, to be sure. For 12 years under Hitler, Germans had been taught that every Jew is a criminal."

Mr. Altmaier made it known that he is in Washington to release property confiscated from Nazis during the war. He is meeting with various members of the Senate and House.

AMERICAN MEMBERS OF JEWISH AGENCY DISCUSS ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- American members of the Jewish Agency executive today met here to discuss various problems concerning organizational activities of the Agency in New York.

An announcement by the Jewish Agency today said that Zalman Shazar has consented to head the Agency's Department for Education and Culture in the Diaspora. Louis Segal, newly-elected American member of the Agency's executive will hold no portfolio, while Dr. Emanuel Neumann will become the head of the Agency's information activities in the United States.

The executive today cabled Benjamin Browdy in New York inviting him to attend all meetings of the Agency despite the fact that he is no longer a member of the executive.

U.S. JEWISH LEADERS WILL DISCUSS PLANS FOR NEW ISRAEL BOND ISSUE

NEW YORK, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Plans for a new Israel Bond Issue will be considered at a national leadership conference of community leaders and members of the Board of Governors of the Israel Bond Organization, which will be held next Saturday evening and Sunday at the Delmonico Hotel here, it was announced today.

More than 200 leaders who have participated in the campaign for the Independence Bond Issue, Israel's first issue inaugurated in the United States in May, 1951, will attend the conference, according to Julian B. Venezky, chairman of the executive committee. Reports on the economic achievements and problems of Israel and on the results of Israel Bond sales in 1953 will also be made at the two-day meeting.

AMERICAN FUND ANNOUNCES \$5,000,000 BUILDING PLAN FOR ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Five million dollars will be raised by the American Fund for Israel Institutions during the next five years to construct new buildings for some of the leading cultural institutions it has supported in Israel for over a decade, it was announced tonight at the Fund's annual dinner-concert at the Waldorf Astoria.

A donation of \$250,000 by Mr. Frederic R. Mann, leading industrialist of Philadelphia, was announced at the dinner, which was attended by more than 2,000 guests. Mr. Mann is one of the founders of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. His gift will go for the building in Tel Aviv of a Cultural Center "which will be a home for Israel's culture, and whose major tenant will be the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra."

A substantial gift by Samuel Rubin, patron of the arts, will make possible the building of the first Academy of Music in Israel, it was announced at the dinner. Tonight's affair climaxed the Fund's 1953 campaign for \$1,807,540 for the support of agricultural schools, music conservatories, institutions for language and literature, maritime training, art and archaeology museums, a dance group, traditional academies and theatres.

Guest speaker Avraham Harman, Israel Consul General, on behalf of the Israel Government, praised the Fund's support of cultural and educational services in Israel. He presented, in the name of the institutions, two exquisitely engraved silver goblets - designed and handcrafted in Jerusalem - to Mr. Mann and Mr. Rubin, the guests of honor; and lauded them for their leadership in support of the Fund's beneficiaries.

Moshe Sharett, Acting Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel, in a message to Edward A. Norman, president of the Fund, congratulated the guests of honor for "their outstanding services to the advancement of culture in Israel" and stated that "the erection of new buildings will enable Israel to uphold its high artistic standards and will help it to accomplish the cultural integration of its immigrants, a task which is no less vital than their economic rehabilitation."

FIRST ITALIAN-JEWISH SPORTS MAGAZINE PUBLISHED IN ROME

ROME, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The first Jewish sports publication in the history of Italy has made its appearance here. The monthly, entitled Maccabi, will report sports news of interest to Italian Jews. Events in Italy, Israel and other parts of the world will be covered by the magazine, which is published by the Italian Maccabi Foundation.

- - - -