



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16 N.Y.

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VOL. XXI No. 28 - 35th year

Wednesday, February 10, 1954

EBAN RECEIVES COPY OF JORDAN REPLY TO U.N. ON DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Ambassador Abba Eban of Israel has received a copy of the Jordan communication to United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold in response to his request that the Jordan Government attend a meeting called by Israel under the terms of the armistice agreement, an Israel delegation spokesman announced here today.

The spokesman also revealed that Mr. Eban is scheduled to confer with Mr. Hammarskjold Thursday, after he has consulted with the Israel Government. The spokesman would make no comment on the details of the Jordan reply.

In UN circles it is known that Jordan rejected the call to the direct meeting demanded by Israel under Article Twelve of the armistice pact. This is the second time Jordan replied in the negative, despite the position taken by Israel and the Secretary General that a call for such a meeting by one party makes attendance obligatory upon both parties.

Article Twelve provides for discussion of changes of the armistice agreement itself. The Jordanians insist that any dispute can be settled through the Mixed Armistice Commission's.

Mixed Armistice Commission Cannot Handle Situation

In a resume of the Israeli view of the legal position the Israeli spokesman today pointed out that the Mixed Armistice Commission "is not empowered to embark upon the general review of the agreement at a political level" as requested by Israel.

"The Secretary General has set in motion the procedures envisioned in Article Twelve. Israel has welcomed his initiative and his intention to give the conference the full measure of his assistance," the spokesman said. "Israel has also informed Mr. Hammarskjold that it would cooperate with his own views on the time and place of the conference and would keep the discussion within the framework of the Armistice Agreement.

"The issue is now whether the Jordan Government will honor its signature of Article Twelve and respect the functions of the Secretary General as laid down in the Agreement," he stressed. "The legal integrity of the Agreement, once its provisions are duly invoked, is a consideration hardly less important than the improvement of the frontier situation which was Israel's primary aim in proposing the conference. A grave situation for this and other agreements would be reached if either party were to invoke the Agreement in due form without the other party responding in precise accordance with its own signature. Accordingly, the Israel Government continues to support the Secretary General's efforts to convoke the conference under Article Twelve."

EGYPT SEEN MANEUVERING TO AVOID SECURITY COUNCIL CENSURE

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Reports from Cairo that the Egyptian Government had eased its "blacklisting" of ships which call at Israeli ports were interpreted in United Nations circles today as an attempt on the part of the Egyptian Government to avoid a censure by the Security Council over its blockade of Israel-bound shipping through the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Eilat.

There was some confusion here as to actually what, if anything, the Egyptian Government had done to "relax" the blacklisting. In the past, ships which called at Israeli ports were "for all time" refused the right to enter Egyptian ports either on business or for fuel supplies and repairs. The reported "relaxation" would have removed from the blacklist ships which call at Israeli ports but not at Arab ports on the same voyage.

An Israeli spokesman's comment on the report was that the new regulations amounted to a "minor adjustment" while the blockade of Israel-bound shipping remains in force.

Western diplomats expressed their reaction by using the phrase "too little and too late."

ARAB STATES IN "PERMANENT WAR" AGAINST ISRAEL, LAVON DECLARES

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Armistice agreements have been ignored by the Arab states, "and the world has put no restraint on their perverse activities which have actually developed into a permanent war" against Israel, Defense Minister Pinchus Lavon declared here today.

Mr. Lavon, speaking at commencement exercises for cadet officers, charged that the Arab states were taking advantage of the Western powers "who, busy with the cold war, would suffer any provocation in order to appease the Arabs." Mr. Lavon cited recent incidents on virtually every border of Israel to bear out his conclusions.

FOUR STRIKES AVERTED IN ISRAEL; TWO SETTLED, TWO DELAYED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Four strikes which together would have disrupted a major portion of Israel's economy were either settled or averted temporarily last night.

A 16-day strike of Israel's diamond workers was ended when the employers agreed to pay cost of living allowances based on the general index of prices. A strike of workers of the Palestine Electric Corporation, Israel's largest public utility, which had been threatened for two weeks, was averted when the management agreed to meet demands for increased pension benefits.

A country-wide strike of artisans in protest against what they called exaggerated income tax payments was postponed temporarily when negotiations were promised. Negotiations between the Histadrut and the Minister of Communications were extended last night, thus putting off a strike of bus cooperatives. The cooperatives have demanded a 22 percent increase in fares while the government only wants to grant 16 percent.

CANADIAN COMPANY TO BEGIN DRILLING FOR OIL IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The Continental Oil Company of Canada will soon commence oil drilling in the Hadera area, according to Bernard Blomfield, a representative of the company, who returned home today. Mr. Blomfield said that geologists' reports on the drilling sites had been favorable.

U.S. ORTHODOX ZIONIST LEADERS HIT DEMONSTRATION AT ISRAEL CONSULATE

NEW YORK, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The heads of two leading religious wings of the Zionist movement in the United States today assailed yesterday's demonstration before the Israeli consulate here as "a shameful desecration of religious principles" put on by "extremists" who thus "offered aid and comfort to the enemies" of the State of Israel.

The demonstration, in which police estimated 3,000 participated, protested Israeli legislation which would draft Orthodox girls for civilian duties such as nursing, teaching and office work.

Today's statement condemning the demonstration came from Rabbi Max Kirshblum, president of the Mizrachi Organization of America, and Rabbi Issachar Levin, president of Hapoel Hamizrachi of America. The two organizations claim a membership of nearly 150,000 in this country and the leaders said that the demonstrators represented only "an infinitesimal percentage of religious Jewry in America."

Rabbis Kirshblum and Levin pointed out that the National Service Law in Israel had been approved by the Mizrachi and Hapoel Hamizrachi there after consultations with the Chief Rabbinate and after receiving assurances from the Israel Government of religious safeguards in implementation of the law. The law has not yet been put into effect and, according to today's statement, "completely exempts ultra-religious girls."

The statement declared further that "elements such as those that demonstrated yesterday have indulged in similar shameful, riotous conduct before the Knesset in Israel, hoping to disrupt the proceedings by means of intimidation."

UNIFIED ZIONIST UNITS SEEN AS AID IN SOLVING MANY PROBLEMS

LONDON, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The hope that the Zionist Actions Committee's decision to enlarge territorial Zionist federations and to unify in them all forces working for Israel, regardless of party affiliation, would be fully implemented this year, was expressed here today by Zvi Herman, head of the organization department of the Jewish Agency executive.

Mr. Herman, who said he was not one of those who believed that organizational changes would bring about sensational developments in the Zionist movement, nonetheless stressed that organizational changes would solve a number of problems facing the Zionist movement.

Mr. Herman said he was hopeful over the recent enlargement of the French Zionist Federation, asserting that it could become a leading force among French Jews. Heretofore, he pointed out, the pro-Communist forces had had a greater influence on French Jewish life because the Zionists were disunited.

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS TO RAISE \$700,000 FOR JNF HULEH PROJECT IN ISRAEL

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- A regional conference of the Jewish National Fund of South Africa, meeting here, has resolved to raise 250,000 pounds (\$700,000) specifically for the Huleh reclamation project in Israel.

A report presented to the parley stated that one in every three people now in Israel has received land from the JNF. It was also stated that the 100,000 member Jewish community of South Africa has contributed 1,500 settlers to Israel.

ISRAEL MISSION IN GERMANY TO AID NAZI VICTIMS WITH CLAIMS

COLOGNE, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The Israeli Purchasing Mission here will aid the efforts of former concentration camp inmates now living in Israel to expedite settlement of their claims under the new federal indemnification law for individual victims of Nazism. This assurance was given here by Dr. Felix E. Shinnar, head of the Israeli purchasing mission, to a three-man delegation from the Israel Association of Former Concentration Victims.

FRENCH JEWS OPPOSE GERMAN REARMAMENT IN LETTER TO BERLIN PARLEY

PARIS, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The Jewish Committee for Action Against the Rearmament of Germany, on which are represented the major organizations of French Jewry, has sent a communication to the Berlin conference of Big Four Foreign Ministers expressing the committee's best wishes for the success of their efforts to safeguard peace.

The committee's letter reminded the Big Four that it was their unity which had made possible the defeat of Hitler, and asserted that the rearming of Germany now would menace world peace, in general, and the security of France, in particular. "In the midst of the European Army, the presence of a reborn Wehrmacht led by the same Nazi generals who had sown death and destruction in Europe arouses our indignation," the letter added.

ORTHODOX SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION FOR GERMANY ESTABLISHED IN LONDON

LONDON, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The formation of a "European Successor Organization for Former Orthodox Jewish Communities of Germany" was announced here last night at a meeting of the Central Keren Hatorah Committee.

The committee included representatives of 19 Orthodox religious and educational groups in Britain. It will support applications by various Orthodox institutions in Europe to the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany for financial assistance.

CITY OF AMSTERDAM PURCHASES SYNAGOGUE FOR USE AS MUSEUM

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The City of Amsterdam has purchased an 18th century synagogue from the Ashkenazi Jewish community here for the equivalent of \$21,000. The building, located in the former ghetto district of the city, will be used as a museum.

"GERMAN VOTERS ALLIANCE" OUTLAWED AS NEO-NAZI PARTY

HANOVER, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- An Administrative Court in Oldenburg has ruled that the German Voters Alliance is a successor of the neo-Nazi Socialist Reich Party and therefore unconstitutional. The Alliance was struck from the ballot before the 1952 municipal elections in Lower Saxony as "a transparent continuation of the dissolved SRP." The Alliance then contested the validity of the Lower Saxony elections, and the Administrative Court ruling rejected that suit.

STATE DEPT. DENIES U.S. ENVOY TO CUBA MADE ANTI-JEWISH STATEMENT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The State Department denied today that Ambassador Arthur Gardner, U.S. envoy to Cuba, had voiced an anti-Semitic statement at a public luncheon in Havana. At the same time, John O'Donnell, Washington columnist for the New York Daily News, who made the accusation, stuck by his guns.

Mr. O'Donnell reported in his Daily News column of February 5 that Ambassador Gardner, addressing a luncheon at Havana, had asserted he had traced back his family tree for many generations and was relieved "to find there were no Jews in it." The columnist also said that the remark was received with cold silence at the luncheon, which was attended, among others, by a number of Jews whose families have lived in Cuba since before the American revolution.

A State Department spokesman told the JTA: "We know of no basis for this story." The spokesman described the Ambassador as a "fine gentleman" who was doing "a fine job."

Mr. Gardner, identified by the Daily News columnist as a friend of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, assumed the Cuban ambassadorship in June, 1953.

SENATE CONFIRMS JUDGE SOBELOFF AS U.S. SOLICITOR GENERAL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- By a voice vote, the U.S. Senate today unanimously confirmed President Eisenhower's nomination of Maryland's Chief Judge Simon E. Sobeloff to the post of Solicitor General of the United States. In that job, he will be counsel to the U.S. Government and its representative in all litigation before the Supreme Court.

Born of parents who immigrated to Baltimore from Russia, Judge Sobeloff rose from law clerk to Federal District Attorney in Baltimore and later to adviser to several Baltimore mayors and Maryland governors. His career has paralleled for many years the career of Maryland's present governor, Theodore R. McKeldin.

Judge Sobeloff has been very active in Jewish affairs since his early youth. He has been president of the Baltimore Board of Jewish Education, a member of the board and counsel to the Associated Jewish Charities of Baltimore, and an active worker on behalf of Israel as well as for local philanthropies. He accompanied Gov. McKeldin on a visit to Israel in 1952.

JWV ASKS CONFERENCE OF PRIVATE GROUPS ON FIGHTING COMMUNISM

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The Jewish War Veterans of the United States proposed yesterday that the Justice Department call a national conference of voluntary organizations to clarify the role of government and voluntary groups in the fight against Communism. In a memorandum submitted to Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Harry T. Madison, national JWV commander, proposed a two-point program to counter "the dangers that can ensue when voluntary organizations intrude on the functions that properly belong to government bodies."

YIDDISH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE ADOPTS \$450,000 BUDGET FOR 1954

NEW YORK, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- A budget of \$450,000 for the activities of the Yiddish Scientific Institute (YIVO) for 1954 was adopted here last night at a meeting of the board of directors.

The budget, more than twice the \$192,000 spent by the organization last year, is needed to carry out its commitments for the compiling and writing of a history of the Jewish labor movement throughout the world and to undertake the documentation work which YIVO has agreed to do in connection with the Yad Veshem, the Israeli memorial to the 6,000,000 Jews martyred by the Nazis.

The organization has active branches in Denmark, England, France, Israel, Australia and in most of the Latin American countries, beside this country.

JEWS IN WESTERN CANADA OPPOSE RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS

SASKATOON, Sask., Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The Jewish community in this far-western Canadian center has presented a new brief to the local Public School Board, opposing a proposal to introduce religious instruction in the public schools.

ARGENTINA NAMES RAILROAD STATION FOR JEWISH POET

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The Argentine Ministry of Transport has decided to name a station near Basavilbaso, in Entre Rios Province, in memory of Alberto Gerchunoff, an Argentine Jewish poet whose works abounded in descriptions of the region. Gerchunoff, who died two years ago, was one of Argentina's leading poets. The Basavilbaso area is heavily settled by Jews who came to this country years ago under Jewish Colonization Association schemes.

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