



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

VOL. XXI No. 33 - 36th year

Wednesday, February 17, 1954

ISRAEL PARLIAMENT VOTES TO ABOLISH CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament today abolished the death penalty for the crime of murder. The vote was 61 to 33, with two abstentions.

The bill does not affect capital punishment for crimes committed by the Nazis or in complicity with the Nazis. The death penalty for certain crimes under military law and for crimes against the state will remain in effect until separate measures are adopted to do away with capital punishment in these specific cases.

ISRAEL CABINET PRESENTS COMPROMISE BUDGET OF 290,000,000 POUNDS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- A proposed administrative budget of approximately 290,000,000 Israeli pounds will be presented to the Israel Parliament tomorrow. The budget will not include development projects, which are covered in a separate budget yet to be presented for the 1954-55 fiscal year.

The budget which will be offered the Knesset tomorrow is a compromise and has been cut several times in the face of General Zionist refusals to support a larger budget. The latest version of the budget is said to have General Zionist support. Beside making a number of cuts in various departments, it also eliminates a tax on high incomes to pay for the government's food subsidy program.

Among the Ministries hardest hit by the cuts are the Health and Welfare Ministry and the Ministry of Interior. The Education Ministry's allocations remain untouched.

ISRAEL PREMIER OFFERS TO EASE SERVICE FOR DRAFTED ORTHODOX WOMEN

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Premier Moshe Sharett is prepared to alleviate conditions of service for Orthodox women drafted for non-military national duty, he indicated in a letter to Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog, which was made public here today. He made similar statements last night in a conference with Rabbi I. M. Levin, Agudas Israel leader and member of the Knesset.

The regulations governing implementation of the national service law for Orthodox women were ready last week, but were held up by a request from the Premier for reconsideration. According to the letter to Chief Rabbi Herzog, the Orthodox young women will not be required to stay away from home over night. In the case of women who chose service in agricultural settlements, they will be assigned to religious settlements. Also, the letter said, requests for exemptions from service on conscientious grounds will be "interpreted liberally."

A spokesman for the Agudas Israel today said that the Orthodox party would not appeal to the United Nations on this dispute. The spokesman said that the dispute would be settled among the Jews and no appeal will be made to the outside world.

EGYPT'S THREAT TO U. N. ON SUEZ ISSUE CONSIDERED BLACKMAIL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Egypt's threat last night to call a meeting of the signatory powers of the international pact governing administration of the Suez Canal, if the United Nations Security Council rules Egypt's anti-Israel blockade illegal, was regarded in UN circles today as sheer blackmail, and ineffective at that.

The United States was not one of the signatories of the Constantinople Convention of 1888 which governs administration of the waterway. Czarist Russia was a signatory, but whether the Soviet Union would be invited to such a meeting is questionable. Other signatories to the pact were: the Ottoman Empire, Britain, Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy, France, Luxemburg and the Netherlands.

In any event, observers here point out, convocation of such a meeting could only take place if three of the signatories joined in calling for it. It is not believed here that Egypt could get any other country to go along with it in such a move. The Egyptian threat was hinted at by Dr. Mahmoud Azmi, Egypt's representative to the UN, at a press conference called after yesterday's meeting of the Security Council where Egypt indicated it would adhere to its blockade of Israeli-bound shipping regardless of Security Council action.

France Will Insist that Egypt Abide by Constantinople Pact

PARIS, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- France will insist that Egypt abide by the Constantinople Convention which guarantees free passage of the Suez Canal to ships of all nations, a spokesman for the French Foreign Office said today.

Commenting on the Israeli complaint to the United Nations against the Egyptian blockade, the French spokesman said "if the Security Council deems that Egypt has violated freedom of transit, France will support energetically any resolution demanding that Egypt respect its international obligations."

ISRAEL PROTESTS TO U. N. ARMISTICE COMMISSION AGAINST JORDAN

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Israel has protested to the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission against three incidents in the last few days in which Arabs crossed the border into Israel.

A Jewish watchman in a settlement in the Jerusalem area was ambushed and riddled with bullets last night. The dead man's arms were stolen by the marauders. He was the father of eight children.

In an attack Monday night, Jordanian forces killed a watchman at another Israeli village near Jerusalem. At Israel's request a United Nations investigator checked the incident. In another incident, Jordanian armed forces were driven off, taking one of their casualties with them.

DR. GOLDMANN RETURNS TO U. S. ; WILL REPORT ON ISRAEL AND EUROPE

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency and head of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, returned yesterday to New York after spending several weeks in Europe and Israel in behalf of the world Zionist movement and the Conference.

Dr. Goldmann will report on the role of Israel and world Jewry in the present world political situation at a "brunch" arranged in his honor by the Manhattan Region of the Zionist Organization of America.

U. S. CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CALLS FOR DIRECT ARAB-ISRAEL TALKS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Resolutions calling for Arab-Israel peace by direct negotiation and opposing the sending of arms by the United States to the Arab countries as long as they did not conclude peace with Israel were adopted today at the concluding session of the national conference of the American Christian Palestine Committee, attended by more than 300 Christian leaders from all over the country.

Other resolutions supported the efforts being made by the U. S. Government to persuade the Arab states to accept Israel as a free and sovereign nation within the Near East region. They lauded the constructive efforts of the U. S. Government to aid all peoples of the Near East and also commended Secretary of State John Foster Dulles for "forthrightly supporting" direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan.

The conference also adopted a resolution applauding the "sacrificial efforts" on the part of American Jews to provide both gifts and capital funds for Israel. At the same time, it praised the Zionists and the friends of Zionism throughout the world for having sought to provide a homeland for Jews, "so that Jews who felt the sting of discrimination and the lash of persecution might live in freedom and dignity."

The conference deplored the repeated statements of Arab leaders that they will never negotiate a settlement with Israel, but will seek to destroy it. "We deplore the fact that Arab nations went to war against Israel in protest against the United Nations partition resolution of 1947," one of the resolutions stated.

Another resolution praised Israel's acts of friendship and good faith, and lauded the Jewish State for having established a democratic society with civil, religious, cultural, and political freedom for all its citizens.

Urges Continuation of U. S. Aid to Israel and Arab States

The conference also recommended that the U. S. Government continue to help both Israel and the Arab states by contributing to the relief and resettlement of each party's refugee population, and by granting increased economic and technical assistance.

The delegates went on record as supporting the appointment of an international commission to be authorized to supervise only the Holy Places in Jerusalem, but to leave all political concerns in the city to the respective governments of Israel and Jordan.

The U. S. Government was urged to protest to the United Nations Security Council the illegal stoppage by Egypt of Israel-bound ships in the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Eilat. The government was also urged to continue to work in cooperation with the United Nations for the most equitable solution of the Arab refugee problem by resettling the refugees in the potentially plentiful lands of the several Arab nations.

The conference said in a resolution that it was "shocked by the reported statement of King Saud of Saudi Arabia that 'Israel, to the Arab world, is like a cancer to the human body and the only way to remedy it is to uproot it just like a cancer. We Arabs total about 50,000,000. Why don't we sacrifice 10,000,000 of our number to live in pride and self respect.' This is a direct challenge to the spiritual foundations of the United Nations," the resolution stated.

Sen. Guy M. Gillette, speaking at tonight's closing session, called for a stronger and more positive United States policy to bring about peace in the Middle East. Sen. Gillette is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and of its Near Eastern Subcommittee. He is widely regarded as an expert on the problems of Israel and her neighbors. None of the Israeli-Arab problems can begin to be solved until there is peace, said Sen. Gillette.

GERMAN CENTRAL BANK TO RESUME PAYMENTS TO ISRAELI RESIDENTS

FRANKFURT, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The German Central Bank today acceded to protests from the Israel Purchasing Mission in Cologne and agreed to resume the payment of monthly pensions and monthly allowances on compensation and indemnification claims to Israeli residents to whom these accounts are payable.

The transfer of these funds--which are limited to the monthly equivalent of \$119--was halted some weeks ago "for technical reasons." The mission, which acts in some ways as a diplomatic mission as well as a purchasing unit, was not informed of the payments stoppage.

Last week, Dr. Felix Shinnar, head of the mission, promised a delegation of Israelis that the mission would do its best to protect their rights and interests in relation to claims for individual restitution or indemnification.

GERMAN INDEMNIFICATION LAW FOR NAZI VICTIMS CALLED INADEQUATE

FRANKFURT, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The Federal Indemnification Law for the compensation of individual Nazi victims is grossly inadequate, charges a resolution adopted here by the "Association of Persecuted Social Democrats in Southern Hesse."

The funds needed for more satisfactory settlements should be raised, says the resolution, through special levies upon those business firms which derived undue profit from the employment of slave laborers during the Nazi regime.

JEWISH GROUPS IN ENGLAND SEEK TO END INTERNAL CONFLICTS

LONDON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Dr. Abraham Cohen, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, last night indicated to a meeting of the Board that work was being done on a plan for restoring "harmony, unity and cooperative effort within Anglo-Jewry."

Dr. Cohen said that he would report to the next meeting of the board, in March, on the plan. Meanwhile, he stated, he still had to discuss details of the proposal with appropriate officers and committees of the board before making public the plan.

He underlined the fact that the Jewish community was looking to the board to produce a solution to the "frequent quarrels, controversies, bickerings, recriminations and conflicts" between the board and other Jewish bodies interested in foreign affairs. He pointed out that at present there were 12 Jewish bodies claiming the right to speak for the Jewish community on foreign affairs. Unless this situation was changed, he stressed, it must "inevitably lead to chaos and complete destruction of any influence and prestige which British Jewry could exercise."

LEADER OF ORTHODOX JEWRY IN HUNGARY ACQUITTED IN BUDAPEST

LONDON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Abraham Kornitzer, leader of Hungarian Orthodox Jewry, has been cleared by a Hungarian court of charges of having committed crimes against the state in relation to Zionist activity, the World Jewish Congress revealed here last night.

Earlier, it had been reported that Dr. Bela Denes and Henrik Galos, two Hungarian Zionist leaders, had also been acquitted by a Hungarian State Tribunal of the same charges. The WJC announcement yesterday confirmed this report. The trial of the three Jewish leaders was secret.

ONLY 3,000 JEWS REMAIN IN LIBYA, JEWISH NEWSPAPER REPORTS

ROME, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The Rome Jewish weekly, Voice of the Jewish Community, today published a report on the situation of the 3,000 Jews now in Libya. The report pointed out that some 27,000 Jews had left the Arab League state--a creation of the United Nations--since the end of the war because of pogroms, racial laws and other forms of discrimination.

AMERICAN JEWISH SOLDIER RECEIVES COMPENSATION FROM GERMAN TRUST

MANNHEIM, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- An American GI who brought a \$200,000 suit against IG-Farben for back wages and damages resulting from his having worked as a slave laborer in an IG-Farben factory attached to the Oswiecim concentration camp has reached an out-of-court settlement, it was learned here today. The terms of the settlement were kept secret.

The GI, Rudolph Waxman of Hollywood, brought suit against the giant German chemical trust while he was attached to an American Army unit in Germany. He brought his suit in an American court which, over the objections of a high-priced battery of IG-Farben lawyers, ruled that it had jurisdiction over the case because Pfc. Waxman was a member of the occupation forces.

Since the beginning of this year, however, American courts in Germany have been curtailing their jurisdiction over civil cases. For this and other reason, Mr. Waxman's attorneys decided to make an out-of-court settlement.

When a youth, Waxman, a member of a Jewish family in Germany, was sent to the concentration camp and assigned to the IG-Farben plant at Monowitz, a satellite camp of Oswiecim. There he suffered physical injuries and mental suffering. He was liberated by the Allies and after the war went to the U.S. His suit asked \$18,000 in back wages and the remainder in damages and legal fees.

JEWS, PROTESTANTS PROTEST "BESMIRCHING" REPUTATIONS OF CLERGYMEN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The Senate Judiciary Committee has received a petition from 15 Protestant and Jewish religious leaders urging a crackdown on Congressional committee witnesses who "besmirch" the reputations of ministers and rabbis in testifying here.

The petitioners said innocent people should be protected from those who make guilt-by-association charges. Any investigative procedure which permits witnesses to attack citizens without giving the accused the opportunity to answer and which implies guilt "on ground of baseless accusation or mere association, is an un-American practice," the religious leaders pointed out.

The petitioners also asked that the Senate Committee look into the cost of duplication by Congressional investigators because of the fact that a person summoned before one committee is likely to be called before another to give virtually the same testimony. Among the signers of the petition are Rabbi Leo Jung of the New York Jewish Center; Rabbi David J. Seligs, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, and several Protestant bishops.

RABBIS IN SOUTH AFRICA PROTEST AGAINST RACIAL SEGREGATION

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Dr. I. Rabinowitz, Chief Rabbi of the Transvaal Federation of Synagogues, and Rabbi M. C. Weiler, head of the Reform movement in South Africa, were among a group of 21 leading South African clergymen and educators who today protested the extension of the Malan government's policy of "apartheid"--segregation of Negro and white--to Johannesburg and Capetown Universities, the last remaining institutions of higher learning in this country which are open to members of all races and creeds on an equal footing.

The protest, contained in a letter to the press, says that it is the government's intention with this move to "destroy the open system" at the schools and replace it with segregation. This would "destroy one of the last bastions of enlightenment in South Africa," the statement said.

AMERICANS TOLD OF DANGER OF BIGOTRY; URGED TO FIGHT PREJUDICE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The people of the United States were urged today by Congresswoman Frances P. Bolton, ranking Republican member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, to combat bigotry, emphasizing that "an attack on any religious group endangers everyone's freedom." She spoke at a meeting of the B'nai B'rith Women here.

"All religious prejudice, anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic, anti-Protestant, must be eliminated if we are to maintain our religious freedom and our other freedoms," Congresswoman Bolton said. "All freedoms are inseparable. Religious prejudice must be downed wherever it raises its head, whether we are the victims of it or not. Only through eternal vigilance and dedication to the principles of the brotherhood of man can this be accomplished."

CATHOLIC CENTER DEDICATED FOR USE OF 2,000 JEWISH STUDENTS

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- As the result of an unprecedented type of religious cooperation with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the new wing of the University Religious Conference Building, Catholic-owned student center at Los Angeles City and State Colleges, was dedicated here for the use of the 2,000 Jewish students on that campus.

Formerly Newman Hall, the University Religious Conference Building has erected a new wing for the exclusive use of B'nai B'rith Hillel, Jewish student organization. Funds for the new wing were supplied by the Los Angeles Jewish Community Council, and furnishings were provided by the B'nai B'rith Women's District Grand Lodge Four. Keynote speakers at the dedication exercises were Philip Klutznick, president of B'nai B'rith, and Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, B'nai B'rith Hillel director.

MICHIGAN GOVERNOR ADDRESSES JEWISH MEETING; URGES AID TO ISRAEL

DETROIT, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The Jewish community in America must "identify itself with Israel, the bastion of democracy in the Middle East," Gov. G. Mennen Williams of Michigan told an overflow audience of 4,500 attending a Jerusalem anniversary celebration here last night in the Detroit Masonic Auditorium.

Admission to the celebration was by purchase of a State of Israel bond and members of all 71 organizations and congregations in Detroit participated in the sale. Among the speakers were Rabbi M. Kivshblum, president of the Mizrahi Organization of America, and Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, former Hadassah president.

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF BUENOS AIRES MARKS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The Jewish Community of Buenos Aires today celebrated its 60th anniversary. The institution, which began as a burial society, has grown into a many-faceted center for lay and religious activities, both of a cultural and organizational nature.

The Community has become an influential factor in the lives not only of its members in this city but throughout Argentina, which contains the third largest organized Jewry in the world. All Jewish publications in Argentina have devoted considerable space to reporting the celebration and to publishing the history of the Community.

CENTRAL JEWISH MUSEUM PLANNED IN YUGOSLAVIA

BELGRADE, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The Yugoslav Federation of Jewish Communities plans the establishment of a central Jewish museum for the whole country, which would collect and display objects of historical and scientific value to Yugoslav Jewry. As a first step the Federation has begun to compile catalogues of such items.