



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

VOL. XXI No. 55 - 36th year

Monday, March 22, 1954

SEARCH FOR NEGEV MURDERERS ABANDONED; TRACKS LOST NEAR JORDAN

JERUSALEM, March 21. (JTA) -- The search for the Arab gang which massacred 11 Israeli men, women and children in the Negev bus ambush last Wednesday has been called off because the Israeli, Jordanian and United Nations trackers lost the tracks of the murderers in a wild, rocky wadi about five miles from the Jordan frontier, it was announced here today.

Jordanian trackers joined the UN and Israeli party after the commander of the Arab Legion offered, through the Mixed Armistice Commission, to send men to participate in the hunt. Gen. Moshe Dayan, Chief of Staff of the Israel Army, instructed the Israeli delegates on the MAC to accept the Jordanian offer. The Jordanian trackers remained with the party one day until the hunt was abandoned.

The tracking teams--led by bloodhounds--had established before the search was called off that the gang of attackers had split up at the scene of the murders and had retreated in two paths at right angles from each other. The trackers spent two nights in the wilderness of wadis and rocks in the fruitless attempt to follow the marauders.

The Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission, to which Israel complained about the massacre, met Friday to discuss it, but adjourned pending the results of the search. In the meantime, the commission gave this complaint priority over a number of other incidents it had on its agenda.

The massacre of the 11 Jews has cast a pall of gloom over the entire country and overshadowed the traditionally festive atmosphere of the Feast of Purim, observance of which began last Thursday at sundown. Purim parties throughout Israel were cancelled and the only visible sign of the holiday was the presence of children in colorful costumes depicting Queen Esther, Ahasuerus, Mordecai and Haman.

Israel Premier Confers with U. N. Truce Chief

Premier Moshe Sharett and Gen. Vagn Bannike, chief of the UN truce observation machinery in Palestine, conferred this week-end on the attack. The Premier pointed out that the attack was carefully and methodically planned and had all the outward signs of a military operation. He said that whether they were regulars or a special unit recruited for this task "there was no doubt" that the operation was prepared at a military center. He called the attack a "wanton and entirely unprovoked act."

Noting that the gang had penetrated deep into Israel territory and struck against a vital artery of internal communications, the Premier said Israel takes the "gravest view" of this attack on the safety of traffic inside the country. "No government conscious of its responsibility for the security of its citizens and the preservation of peace would remain passive in the face of such an onslaught," he declared. "Responsibility for the attack must be laid at the door of Jordan," the Premier stated.

ISRAEL AMBASSADOR SEEKS URGENT TALK WITH DULLES ON NEGEV MURDERS

WASHINGTON, March 21. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban, acting on instructions of the Israel Government, asked Secretary of State John Foster Dulles for an interview as "a matter of urgency" arising from "the murderous attack by an organized Jordanian force" on a passenger bus in the Negev last Wednesday.

State Department sources today indicated that the Department would not make any "hasty" condemnation of Jordan and would also not "prejudge" the incident. The general feeling in the State Department seems to be that the United Nations truce supervision organization must first complete its investigation and report the facts. Only then, after studying the UN findings, if it is felt that any American action is warranted or desirable, various courses of action may be considered, it was indicated.

Differences were cited to show that the Negev incident differed from the Kibya affair in which the United States lost no time in demanding United Nations Security Council action. It was pointed out that the Department's action with regard to Kibya was based on a report by Gen. Vagn Bennike, chief of the United Nations truce supervision organization, which blamed Israel. Therefore, according to today's explanation, the Department denounced Israel and called for United Nations action because of America's interest in maintaining the authority of the United Nations and preserving peace and security.

Z. O. A. SAYS STATE DEPT. ACTION ON NEGEV AMBUSH WILL BE WATCHED

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- The National Administrative Council of the Zionist Organization of America, meeting in special session here today, gave its unanimous endorsement to a declaration by Rabbi Irving Miller, ZOA president, assailing the State Department for its policy of "coddling" the Arabs at the expense of Israel and urging it to play a "more constructive role" by concentrating on the fundamental problem of peace.

Rabbi Miller's statement referred specifically to the massacre of March 17 at Scorpion Pass. He declared that this massacre "is the latest in a series of murderous acts committed by Arab states against Israel" and charged that "full responsibility for this wanton killing must be borne by the Government of Jordan, whose official denials are obviously designed to evade censure by the United Nations."

Turning to the policy of the State Department, Dr. Miller said: "We recall how hastily and energetically the State Department rushed forward to condemn Israel at the time of the tragic Kibya incident, which had been provoked by a long series of Jordanian attacks carried out against Israel's citizens without a word of reproof from our government."

He further emphasized that the manner in which the Administration acts with respect to the massacre at Scorpion Pass will be carefully noted by Arabs and Israelis alike--indeed, by public opinion everywhere--and "conclusions will be drawn by all concerned." Some 200 members of the National Administrative Council, the ruling body of the Zionist Organization of America between conventions, attended today's session.

(Leading New York newspapers this week-end condemned the Arab attack on the Negev bus and pointed out that the underlying basis of the outrage was the Arab refusal to make peace with Israel. The New York Times editorial declared that the "only real solution is acceptance by the Arabs of the reality of an Israeli state and mutual cooperation and goodwill in a land sacred to the religions of all parties concerned."

(The Herald Tribune, for its part, bluntly blamed the Arabs for the affair and noted "the plain fact" that the "Arab states have refused to take any steps that might contribute to peace and stability." It cited the Jordan refusal to confer with Israel under UN auspices and the Egyptian blockade as a "pattern of action" that "constitutes more than a threat to peace--it is a denial that there is peace.")

GERMAN REPARATIONS FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR JEWISH CULTURAL PROGRAM

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- Nearly \$1,000,000 from West Germany's first reparations payments to Israel has been allocated for use during 1954 in an unprecedented program of cultural rehabilitation including scholarships and fellowships to Nazi victims and for the salvage of the vast cultural treasures destroyed by the Nazis. The allocation was voted today by the board of directors of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany meeting at the Hotel Roosevelt here.

Attending the board meetings are more than 40 representatives of the major Jewish organizations and communities in the free world. More than a half of this sum of \$900,000 will be devoted to a program of grants to Jewish students and teachers, known as the "Yavne Fellowships" after a town in Palestine in which the greatest academicians and intellectuals of the second Jewish Commonwealth congregated to pursue Jewish learning following the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

This is part of over \$9,000,000 which the conference assigned today to aid more than 30,000 needy Jewish victims of Nazism who now live in Western Europe, the Americas, Africa, Australia and the Far East. The allocations include funds providing legal assistance to about 100,000 individual claimants seeking restitution and indemnification from West Germany. The \$9,000,000 is the conference share of the moneys received by Israel to date under the \$822,000,000 Bonn-Israel Reparations Agreement.

Jewish Claims Conference Issues Call to Germany

The conference unanimously went on record as satisfied with West Germany's compliance, so far, with the terms of her year-old reparations pact with Israel. However, the resolution deplors the Bonn Government's failure to implement and improve its indemnification laws and thereby alleviate the hardships of many thousands of claimants. The resolution demanded that the German Federal Government correct "without further delay" the deficiencies of the Indemnification Law and called for the immediate issuance by Bonn of regulations for its effective implementation.

The program for cultural rehabilitation is intended to help fill the almost irreparable gap left by the destruction of great Jewish centers of learning, of schools, synagogues, libraries, museums and archives and by the loss of countless numbers of Jewish lay and professional leaders which has robbed Jewish communities throughout the world of a great cultural potential.

Dr. Goldmann Outlines Details of the Cultural Program

Addressing the board, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Conference president, declared that while "the physical needs of Nazi victims today are greater than all of the funds available to the Conference, a portion of the funds must be used to restore and reinvigorate the Jewish values and traditions the Nazis sought to destroy as relentlessly as they did our people."

"The conference," Dr. Goldmann said, "is fulfilling in the cultural sphere a unique and historic function. It is the first time that Jewish public funds of such dimensions will be devoted, among other purposes, to create a comprehensive scholarship program designed to foster Jewish learning."

The program will include scholarships and fellowships for Jewish studies; special projects for independent research by scholars in the fields of Jewish creative arts and sciences; stipends for students in Yeshivas, rabbinical seminaries transplanted from Eastern Europe; grants-in-aid to Jewish teachers who were victims of Nazism; the salvage, restoration and preservation of Jewish books, manuscripts, historical documents, records, works of art, religious articles and other cultural treasures which were destroyed or lost during the Nazi regime in Europe.

The program is based on the recommendations of a group of outstanding scholars from America and Europe who constitute a Cultural Advisory Committee, chaired by

Professor Salo W. Baron of Columbia University, which has been studying the problem of cultural restoration for over a year. It will be carried out in cooperation with established Jewish organizations in various fields and with Jewish communities of Europe.

The program of grants of Jewish students and teachers includes scholarships to Jewish schools on an undergraduate level, graduate fellowships to Nazi victims. Stipends will be awarded to advance students in yeshivot transplanted from Europe to countries outside of Europe and Israel. Other grants will be distributed among students in European yeshivot.

Relief to Supplement United Jewish Appeal Effort

The bulk of the funds available, the conference board announced, will be expended for cash relief, feeding programs, child care, medical care, care of the aged, cultural and educational assistance, vocational training, emigration assistance and rehabilitation and reconstruction loans to survivors of Nazism.

The conference board of directors announced that the Joint Distribution Committee with a record of four decades as a major international relief organization, will be entrusted with the administration of funds and the supervision of their use by established relief organizations in the countries concerned. The conference monies will supplement the funds available from the United Jewish Appeal which are unable, alone, to meet the great volume of relief and rehabilitation needs.

The meetings considered applications totalling \$54,000,000 for relief and rehabilitation activities from 100 organizations operating in 31 countries, more than six times the sum available this year. In assigning priorities, the conference has had to assess the areas of greatest need.

The conference announced that it has undertaken financial responsibility for the operations of the United Restitution Organization which will be called upon to help obtain legal assistance for the prosecution of restitution and indemnification claims on Germany by an estimated 100,000 individuals.

Other leading Jewish welfare and communal organizations which, jointly with JDC, will implement the relief and rehabilitation program, include: Israelitische Kulturgemeinde of Vienna, the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle of Germany, the Fonds Social Juif Unifié of France, the Unione delle Comunità Israelitiche Italiane of Italy, the Aide aux Israelites Victimes de la Guerre, in Brussels, the Central Beheer Van Joodsche Weldadigheid of Antwerp, the Mosaiska Foersamlingen of Sweden, the Central Council of Jewish Communities in Greece, the Federation of Jewish Communities in Yugoslavia and others.

Germany Keeps Pledge on Reparations; Lags on Legislation

From reports at the meeting of the board, it became evident that West Germany is living up to the terms of her reparations agreement with Israel by delivering goods on schedule. However, the Board noted that a disturbing lag in the implementation and improvement of German indemnification legislation is causing hardships for many thousands of Hitler's victims. Dr. Nahum Goldmann warned that "we cannot view with equanimity a situation in which thousands of claims remain unsatisfied because the German authorities fail to apply themselves diligently enough to the implementation of the indemnification legislation."

The vast industrial and agricultural development programs and irrigation projects for which German deliveries are being used in Israel, were outlined by Dr. Giora Josephthal, treasurer of the Jewish Agency and head of the Reparations Corporation which acts as purchasing agent for the Israel Government. Dr. Josephthal told the board that Israel has obtained \$95,000,000 from Germany in goods and credits since the reparations agreement went into effect in March, 1953, and another \$60,000,000 will have been received by March 31st, 1955.

JEWISH GROUPS INSISTS ON RIGHT TO PETITION U. N. ON HUMAN RIGHTS

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- The Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, at a meeting held yesterday at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel here, unanimously decided to support the right of individuals and organizations to petition the United Nations "without reservation" on matters concerning human rights, without submitting their grievances through their national governments.

The Coordinating Board, which has consultative status with the United Nations, is composed of representatives of B'nai B'rith, Board of Deputies of British Jews and South African Board of Jewish Deputies. Leaders of the three organizations, as well as leaders of Jewish communities in Latin America, participated in the meeting. A statement issued after the meeting by Philip M. Klutznik, B'nai B'rith national president, said that the meeting has also given attention to questions involved in UN Charter revision.

"Our views on that subject will be made known from time to time," the statement said. "But we were unanimous in the conclusion that the United Nations must be supported as the best available instrumentality for achieving peace and human understanding in the world. In this connection, we look with extreme disfavor on the position taken by some to utilize the discussion of charter revision as a means of annihilating the United Nations Organization."

Two proposals introduced in the United Nations Human Rights Commission would have given individuals and organizations the right to petition the UN on violations of human rights, were withdrawn this week-end by their sponsors. One proposal was submitted by France and the other was presented jointly by Chile, Egypt, the Philippines and Uruguay. The proposals met with strong opposition in the commission.

JEWISH EDUCATION CONFERENCE REQUESTS EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY AID

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- The financial needs of Jewish educational institutions and organizations have not been met in proportion to the tasks imposed upon them, and Jewish communal fund-raising agencies throughout the country must give these institutions more adequate and effective support, it was declared in a resolution adopted unanimously today by more than 1,000 delegates representing schools, communities, synagogues, and national Jewish organizations at the Second National Conference on Jewish Education.

The delegates, in other resolutions, called upon organized Jewish communities throughout the country to establish centers for experimentation in order to improve the quality of Jewish education. They urged that the National Advisory Council of the American Association for Jewish Education establish a special group composed of representatives from all ideological and religious groupings to work specifically on improving the quality of Jewish education.

Stressing the importance of participation of parents in the educational process, the delegates called upon the American Association for Jewish Education to form a national association of all Jewish school parent-teacher groups, with competent professional direction. They also urged the organization of a national council on adult Jewish education to stimulate, organize and develop programs and materials throughout the country.

At the opening session of the Conference last night, Harry Starr, president of the American Association for Jewish Education, declared: "Jewish education has served as the bulwark of Jewish survival through the ages and in our time it must provide the rationale for meaningful survival in a democratic world. To make possible a future Jewish society worthy of the Jewish past, there is need for distinct and substantial improvement in the quality of education given in all types of Jewish schools." Other speakers included Prof. Salo Baron, Prof. Horace M. Kallen, Dr. Israel Chipkin, Dr. Oscar Janowsky, Samuel Niger and others.

J.D.C. STARTS SURVEY OF HEALTH AND NEEDS OF JEWS IN ROME

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee today announced the launching of the first post-war survey of the health and economic status of the Rome Jewish community. Initial stages of the survey will be limited to the 5,000 Jews living in the so-called "ghetto" of Rome, a congested area bordering the Tiber River.

According to Moses A. Leavitt, JDC executive vice-chairman, the survey will seek to determine the medical and welfare needs of the local Jewish population, community resources available to meet these needs, the extent to which community resources are being used and whether additional aid is required from JDC and other outside sources.

Currently, JDC is providing welfare, educational and vocational training and rehabilitation assistance for some 3,500 men, women and children in Rome and other parts of Italy. The JDC also supports an OSE medical dispensary in the heart of the Rome "ghetto," an CRT vocational training school and a Jewish orphanage which is home for about 60 youngsters. Many of the 1,600 displaced persons still living in Italian cities and refugee camps are also dependent on JDC help as they wait for an opportunity for permanent resettlement in other countries.

GOV. MCKELDIN LAUDS ISRAEL AT U. J. A. CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA

ATLANTA, March 21. (JTA) -- Governor Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland, a recent visitor to Israel, today told delegates to the Southeast Regional Conference of the United Jewish Appeal, that the "young nation of Israel is doing a great and noble work that has excited the admiration of the world."

Telling the conferees that the spirit of religious intolerance assumes different forms, Gov. McKeldin scored the McCarran Immigration Act, which he said, "abandons the human ideal of America as a haven for the oppressed and creates second class American citizens. I count this piece of legislation a defeat in our long struggle for religious freedom and for democratic equality."

The conferees, who inaugurated the 1954 UJA campaign in the Southeast, moved adoption of a three-point program calling for increased giving by all contributors, the immediate beginning of fund solicitations, and the earliest cash redemption of all pledges.

METHODISTS TO SHARE 100-YEAR-OLD SYNAGOGUE FOR WORSHIPPING

NEWBURGH, N. Y., March 21. (JTA) -- A practical application of the ideals of brotherhood will be put into operation here about May 1 when the local Methodist congregation begins worshipping in Temple Beth Jacob, 100-year-old synagogue here.

The Methodists will use the synagogue while their old church is torn down and a new edifice is erected on the same site, about the end of the year. Negotiations for the Protestants to use the synagogue were initiated by Rabbi Maurice J. Bloom, spiritual leader of Beth Jacob, during Brotherhood Week, last month. Rabbi Bloom will serve as an honorary member of the church building committee.

DR. MORDECAI KATZ, JEWISH AUTHOR AND EDITOR, DIES IN MIAMI

MIAMI, Fla., March 21. (JTA) -- Dr. Mordecai Katz, well known Jewish author and journalist, died here suddenly at the home of Dr. A. Mukdoni, noted Jewish critic, while attending a birthday party given for the latter.

Born in Lithuania 69 years ago, Dr. Katz came to the United States before World War I and obtained his Ph.D from Columbia University in 1925. He was for many years a member of the editorial staff of the Jewish Daily News and when this newspaper closed, he became the editor of the Jewish Courier, a daily newspaper in Chicago, which ceased publication several years ago. Later, he joined the Jewish Morning Journal in New York.