



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

VOL. XXI No. 57 - 36th year

Wednesday, March 24, 1954

ISRAEL WALKS OUT OF ARMISTICE COMMISSION; PROTESTS STAND ON AMBUSH

JERUSALEM, March 23. (JTA) -- The Israeli delegation to the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission today walked out of an emergency meeting of the commission when the United Nations chairman, American Naval Commander E. R. Hutchinson abstained on a resolution condemning the Jordan Government as responsible for the ambush in the Negev last week which cost 11 Israeli men, women and children their lives.

There were indications that the Israeli walk-out meant that Israel would quit the commission, rather than merely walk out of one session in protest. The resolution, proposed by the Israeli delegation, read:

"The Mixed Armistice Commission deeply deplores the loss of innocent lives incurred as a result of the attack on the Israeli bus carried out by a Jordanian organized gang with rifles and automatic weapons near Scorpion Pass March 17.

"The Mixed Armistice Commission finds Jordan responsible for this unprovoked attack which resulted in the cold-blooded murder of 11 passengers and the wounding of two others, which constitutes a most flagrant violation of the armistice agreement.

"The Mixed Armistice Commission condemns in the strongest terms the latest Jordan aggression and calls on the Jordan authorities to: terminate all warlike acts against Israel; take the most effective measures to prevent the future violation of the armistice agreement, to apprehend the culprits and to mete out severe punishment to the perpetrators of this crime and those responsible for it."

American Chairman Abstains on Resolution

In the voting on the resolution, which was held paragraph-by-paragraph, the Israelis voted for the first paragraph, the Jordanians voted against and the chairman abstained. After the same vote was registered on the second paragraph, the senior Israeli delegate, Lt. Col. Arie Shalev declared: "The Israeli delegation is not in a position, under these circumstances, to continue its participation in the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission." The Israelis then walked out.

When the MAC meeting opened, the chairman suggested that discussion be postponed until the completion of the investigation into the details of the ambush. The Israeli delegation asserted that the investigation of the massacre itself had nothing to do with the Jordanian responsibility for the incident, which had clearly been proved.

At yesterday's meeting of the MAC, the Israelis gave Commander Hutchinson a list of the names of some of the participants in the Negev ambush, although they did not indicate how they obtained the information. (At the United Nations today, Israel chief delegate Abba Eban conferred with American delegate Henry Cabot Lodge on the Jordanian situation. Ambassador Eban was also scheduled to meet with UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold tonight on the same problem.)

ISRAEL CHARGES ARMISTICE REGIME IMPOTENT TO HALT AGGRESSIONS

JERUSALEM, March 23. (JTA) -- The Israel Government charged today that the inability of the armistice regime to prevent such events as the massacre at Scorpion Pass and the failure of the United Nations observers to fix responsibility for the crime proved the impotence of the armistice regime and justified the Israel Government's decision to discontinue participation in the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission.

A statement by the Government tonight warned that the outcome of the commission's investigation of the bus ambush would be most likely to encourage aggressive and criminal elements in the Arab countries. These elements, the statement declared, would learn from this situation that they may perpetrate such outrages with impunity.

The Government statement reviewed the entire situation commencing with the bus ambush on March 17 which, it said, "bore the unmistakable character of a military operation and was the gravest of all that had occurred within Israel territory since the termination of hostilities and the conclusion of the armistice agreements."

The statement pointed out that the investigation, in which United Nations observers participated, proved that the trail of the murder gang came from the direction of the Jordan frontier and returned toward the frontier. "This fact, in addition to the generally clear picture of the outrage, left no room for doubt that it was perpetrated by a Jordanian force," the statement charged.

The Israel delegation therefore lodged an official complaint with the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission and submitted a draft resolution stating that the attack had been carried out by men coming from Jordan. According to the provisions of the armistice, the statement pointed out, responsibility for the crime therefore fell on the Jordan Government.

The Jordanian delegation, the statement added, thereupon advanced the contention at the armistice commission meeting that the outrage was the work of Israelis. The statement then noted that the chairman of the commission, who represented the United Nations, "thus confronted with a choice between the versions of Jordan and Israel on the nature of the events, did not repudiate Jordan's assertion and abstained from voting on Israel's draft resolution which therefore was not adopted."

Says Commission's Failure Created "Situation of Utter Gravity"

"The prolonged discussion of the Israel complaint in the Mixed Armistice Commission thus terminated without decision," the Israel statement noted. "This outcome of the consideration by the Mixed Armistice Commission and the United Nations truce supervision committee of the Maaleh Akrabim (Scorpion Pass) outrage has created a situation of utter gravity."

"Not only did the armistice regime prove incapable of preventing a wanton onslaught, but even after the occurrence, the United Nations observers did not see their way to fixing responsibility for the crime. It (the armistice regime) thereby has demonstrated its own impotence to prevent the occurrence of such monstrous deeds," the statement declared.

"The results of the Mixed Armistice Commission's examination is most likely to encourage aggressive and criminal elements in the Arab countries who will learn from this experience that they may carry out such outrages with impunity. Under these circumstances, the Israel Government saw no sense in continuing participation in the Mixed Armistice Commission and decided to discontinue same," the statement concluded.

The Israel Parliament is scheduled to hold a debate tomorrow on the Scorpion Pass massacre. The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee met tonight,

ARAB AMBASSADORS VISIT STATE DEPT.; THREATEN WAR ON ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, March 23. (JTA) -- A diplomatic delegation representing the seven Arab League nations today served notice on Secretary of State John Foster Dulles that the Arab League was prepared "automatically and instantly" to wage war against Israel should Israel take any "expansionist or aggressive action."

The Ambassadors of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, accompanied by the Egyptian and Yemenite Charges d'Affaires spent over an hour today with Secretary Dulles, Assistant Secretary Henry A. Byroade, and other leading State Department officials.

When the Arab delegation emerged from Mr. Dulles' office, Lebanese Ambassador Charles Malik identified himself as the spokesman designated by the group. He said Mr. Dulles was informed "that if the mounting tension in the Near East, which is caused by Israel, should lead Israel to any expansionist or aggressive action concerning any of their countries, the other countries, being all bound together by the Arab collective security pact, would regard such an action as being upon them all and would automatically and instantly come to the support of the attacked country with all the means at their disposal."

Ambassador Malik said "the reason they brought this matter to the attention of the United States Government is partly the interest they know the United States has under the Charter of the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security in the Near East, partly the fact that without United States extensive aid to Israel, Israel would lack the material and moral means to commit any act of aggression."

Indicate Secretary Dulles' Interest in Their Views

Asked about the reaction of Mr. Dulles, Mr. Malik said "he certainly expressed interest." He also indicated in other ways that the State Department showed a sympathetic interest in the Arab point of view.

Mr. Malik said the Arabs told the Department that "a series of incidents since Kibya seems to indicate that Israel seems to want to provoke engagements with one or another of the Arab states." He said Israel's "warlike intentions" were established by "declarations by Israel authorities there and in this country, the concentration of troops, and by the apprehension felt in Arab public opinion that this series of acts have as their end the drawing of the Arabs into an open engagement." The Ambassador alleged that Israel troops were concentrated on Israel borders facing Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

The delegation refused to tell reporters whether the State Department was today asked to expedite arms shipments to the Arab states in line with the Department's announced policy of supplying such aid. Mr. Malik referred this question to the Departmental authorities. Assistant Secretary Byroade was asked about it but declined to comment. It was learned that the delegation asked Secretary Dulles to bring about a termination of American munitions sales to Israel.

Israel Minister Plenipotentiary Reuven Shiloah was to meet with Assistant Secretary of State Byroade tonight. The meeting will pertain to the present tense situation in the Near East and it is believed will be concerned with the ambush attack on an Israel bus in the Negev.

SECRETARY DULLES SAYS U.S. FAVORS DIRECT ISRAEL-JORDAN TALKS

WASHINGTON, March 23. (JTA) -- Secretary of State John Foster Dulles said at his press conference today that the United States has been supporting the United Nations Secretary General with regard to his request to Jordan to meet with Israel--under Article XII of the Israel-Jordan armistice agreement--to discuss armistice problems.

Mr. Dulles responded to a JTA reporter's question. The question asked was: In view of the precarious status of the armistice and the recent Negev bus massacre is the United States doing anything to reinforce the UN request to Jordan to meet with Israel under Article XII to discuss strengthening of the armistice pact?

ISRAEL TELLS UNITED STATES OF 'GRAVE VIEW' OF SECURITY SITUATION

WASHINGTON, March 23. (JTA) -- The "grave view" held by the Israel Government over the deteriorating security situation, the failure of the armistice machinery and the repudiation by Jordan of its obligation under the armistice was reported to the United States Government today at an emergency meeting at the State Department.

Reuven Shiloah, Israel Minister, conferred tonight for an hour and fifteen minutes with Henry A. Byroade, Assistant Secretary of State. He told Mr. Byroade of Israel's concern over the deterioration of security along the Israel-Jordan frontier, over the increasing ineffectiveness of the armistice machinery and over the attitude of the Jordan Government in flaunting the armistice agreements and in repudiating Article XII of the armistice. Israel invoked this article last November in an attempt to bring Jordan to a face-to-face meeting to discuss the armistice situation.

Mr. Shiloah told the American official that Israel feels the situation has now reached the stage where it should be taken up urgently by the Security Council. The leading powers, Mr. Shiloah declared, should see to it that the Security Council dealt with this security situation.

UNGETS RESOLUTION CALLING ON EGYPT TO END ISRAEL BLOCKADE

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 23. (JTA) -- Egypt and The Lebanon voiced strong opposition today in the Security Council to a draft resolution, submitted by New Zealand, calling on Egypt to comply with a Security Council resolution of Sept. 1, 1951 enjoining her to cease interference with Israel-bound shipping through the Suez Canal.

The resolution, which reportedly has the approval of the Big Three Western Powers, notes "with grave concern" Egypt's failure to comply with the 1951 resolution and calls upon Egypt, "in accordance with its obligations under the Charter, to comply therewith." With reference to the Israeli complaint of interference by Egypt with shipping in the Gulf of Akaba bound for the Israel port of Eilat, the resolution declares the complaint should be referred, in the first instance, to the Israel-Egypt Mixed Armistice Commission.

In moving the resolution, Leslie Knox Munro, New Zealand representative, charged that Egypt's degree of non-compliance with the Security Council order was "not nominal but substantial" and insisted that this issue of non-compliance was the central issue. He said that Egypt's claim of a state of belligerency had been specifically denied by the Security Council in 1951. He also charged that Egypt, "with every appearance of deliberation," had ignored the Security Council's injunctions, and declared that no border grievances could justify "a continuing breach" of the Council's resolution affirming freedom of passage through the Suez Canal.

The Egyptian delegate, Dr. Mohamed Azmi, repeated Egypt's claim that her blockade was justified by an existing state of belligerency. Dr. Charles Malik of The Lebanon, was interrupted by the chairman, Selim Sarper of Turkey, in the midst of a long discourse when he made the "announcement" that as a result of Israel's action in walking out of the Mixed Armistice Commission in Jerusalem today, the Arabs feared that "Israel might strike somewhere in the Arab world."

Consideration of the New Zealand resolution will be resumed by the Council next Thursday.

TURKEY ASSURES FRIENDSHIP TO ISRAEL; SAYS PAKISTAN PACT NO OBSTACLE

ISTANBUL, March 23. (JTA) -- The Turkish Premier has assured Israel Minister Maurice Fisher that Turkey's friendly relations with Israel will continue to grow and develop despite Turkey's rapprochement with Pakistan and various Arab states. The Premier told the Israeli diplomat that Iraq and any other Arab nation which joined the Turkish-Pakistan military pact would have to adopt a more conciliatory attitude toward Israel.

SLOVAKIAN JEWS ORDERED NOT TO OPPOSE SYNAGOGUE LIQUIDATION

BERLIN, March 23. (JTA) -- Two Slovakian Jewish leaders were under arrest for several days recently because they threatened to complain about the closing down of five synagogues in Slovakia, it was reported here today.

The report said that the two, Slovakian Chief Rabbi Elias Katz and Joseph Lipa, were arrested while attending a meeting of the Council of Czechoslovakian Jewish Communities in Prague after they told several government-appointed functionaries that they would complain to the Bureau of Church affairs against the synagogue closures. They were released a few days later, the report added, on the understanding that they would make no further complaints.

JEWS IN ITALY TO GET 1,000,000 LIRA FROM NAZI LOOTED PROPERTY

ROME, March 23. (JTA) -- The Union of Italian Jewish Communities is expected to obtain about 1,000,000 lira from a hidden treasure of valuables taken from Jews who were deported by the Nazis to concentration camps, it was learned here today.

Some weeks ago a store of jewelry and other valuables estimated to be worth about one billion lira was unearthed in a branch of the Bank of Italy. A search was undertaken for the owners of these items and the Union's assistance was enlisted by the government to find the owners or their heirs. As a result, some of the property has been returned to its rightful owners, or their heirs.

Only a small portion of the other property will come to the Union under the law which gives heirless Jewish property of Nazi victims to the community.

GERMAN COURT REJECTS APPEAL OF SENTENCED RESTITUTION OFFICIAL

MUNICH, March 23. (JTA) -- The German Supreme Court at Karlsruhe today rejected the appeal of Dr. Berthold Konirsch, former head of the Jewish section of the Bavarian Restitution Office, against a sentence of four months' imprisonment and a 500-mark fine on charges of fraud.

Dr. Konirsch, tried at the same time as the late Philip Auerbach, onetime head of the Restitution Office, and Dr. Aron Chrenstein, former Chief Rabbi of Berlin, was convicted of charges of having forged the names of Jewish victims of the Nazis who left Germany and thereby helping unauthorized persons collect payments due the former.

The Federal Court also announced that its decision on the appeal of Rabbi Chrenstein would be given at a later date. He received a one-year prison sentence and a fine of 10,000 marks.

JEW RESUMES POST AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF GERMAN SUPREME COURT

BCNN, March 23. (JTA) -- Dr. Rudolf Katz, who for two months served as Acting Chief Justice of the German Supreme Constitutional Court following the death of the former Chief Justice, this week-end stepped down from the highest judicial post in West Germany following the election of Dr. Joseph Wintrich as Chief Justice.

Dr. Katz resumed his post as Vice-President of the court, which sits at Karlsruhe and is invested with more power in the political sphere than ever before enjoyed by a German court. In that sense, Dr. Katz occupied one of the highest government positions ever held by a Jew in Germany.

60,000 FORMER NAZIS MAY BE OFFERED AMNESTY BY BONN GOVERNMENT

LONDON, March 23. (JTA) -- An estimated 60,000 former Nazis now living in West Germany under assumed names are to be offered a new amnesty by the Adenauer government, it was reported here today from Bonn. The 60,000 are believed to be men with such records that they feared to take advantage of the last amnesty offered to Nazis in 1949.

PRESIDENT OF "LIONS INTERNATIONAL" RETRACTS ANTI-JEWISH REMARKS

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- Anti-Jewish remarks made by S. A. Dodge, president of Lions International, were retracted by him today in a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Pointing out that a JTA dispatch quoting those remarks--which he made in Los Angeles--"has given the impression that I harbor ill feeling toward people of the Jewish faith," Mr. Dodge said:

"The statements which you quoted were made by me, under great stress, shortly after I had returned from a trip during which I had witnessed the shocking plight of the Arab refugees and felt that possible Communist inroads in the Middle East could lead to a conflict involving the use of American troops. Unfortunately, I had only partial knowledge of the reasons for these conditions and did not realize the full implications of my statement. I regret exceedingly that the reporting of my statements seemed to reflect an anti-Semitic attitude on my part because this, of course, is diametrically opposed to my own viewpoint as it is to that of Lions International. I could not condone such thinking either personally or as representative of the Association."

Mr. Dodge declared that he had since conferred with representatives of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and "information has been made available to me on the problems of Israel, the origins of the Arab-Israel conflict, the Arab refugee problem and the American program of aid to the Arab States as well as to Israel. This has given me a broader perspective of the complex problems in this troubled area. I am the more deeply impressed with the necessity for renewed efforts to establish peace between Israel and the Arab States which would provide the conditions for justice for all the peoples of that area."

"I earnestly hope and pray to God," Mr. Dodge concluded, "that our Lions organization, with its basic emphasis on service to all men, regardless of race or creed, may become an agency through which the peoples of all nations meet in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding to solve, according to the will of our Creator, the many problems that vex the human family, that the world may be, as planned in the beginning, a place of peace."

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY GETS \$500,000 GIFT TO OPEN WOMEN'S COLLEGE

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- An initial gift of \$500,000 by Max Stern of New York to establish a College for Women at Yeshiva University was announced today by Dr. Samuel Belkin, president. The gift by Mr. Stern, vice-chairman of the University's Board of Trustees, represents the largest single contribution to the institution in its 58-year history. It is also believed to be the largest gift of its kind to a Jewish educational institution, Dr. Belkin declared.

Dr. Belkin reported that the College will open this Fall and will be called the Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University. He added that the acquisition of a new building would be announced shortly. The new Women's College will be patterned after the University's present College of Arts and Science, now entering its 26th year.

IMMIGRATION LAW CRITICIZED BY NEW YORK'S DEPUTY MAYOR

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- Sharp criticism of the present immigration law was voiced here today by Deputy Mayor Henry Epstein at the opening of new quarters of the Bramson ORT Trade School which provides free training in the garment trades to recent Jewish immigrants. More than 10,000 refugees have graduated from the school, it was announced at the ceremony.

Deputy Mayor Epstein said that the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act is "incompatible with free world leadership." He also called for a "generous interpretation" of the Refugee Relief Act. The City of New York, he declared, stood ready to receive its share of the 209,000 newcomers whose admission was authorized by this Act.