



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

560 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 15, N. Y.

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VCL. XXI No. 97 - 36th year

Wednesday, May 20, 1954

AUSTRIAN MINISTER ANNOUNCES RESUMPTION OF TALKS ON JEWISH CLAIMS

VIENNA, May 19. (JTA) -- Representatives of the Committee on Jewish Claims Against Austria will arrive here June 1 to re-open negotiations with the Austrian Government on Jewish demands for a lump-sum settlement of heirless and unclaimed Jewish property and individual restitution legislation, Dr. Reinhardt Kamitz, Austrian Finance Minister, announced here today.

Commenting on this announcement, Arie Eshel, Israeli representative here, said Israel welcomes the re-opening of negotiations, particularly since some 30,000 Austrian Jews are now living in Israel where they found refuge after 1938.

He said the fact that both sides have agreed to resume the talks raises hopes for a satisfactory solution of the problems at issue. He said that once both sides agree in principle to a lump-sum settlement there are no unbridgeable obstacles to the solution of the legislative problems.

3,000 ISRAELI PHYSICIANS JOIN 2,000 DOCTORS IN SYMPATHY STRIKE

TEL AVIV, May 19. (JTA) -- Three thousand Israeli physicians in private practice today went on a two-hour sympathy strike in support of more than 2,000 doctors working for the government and national institutions who yesterday struck to support demands for a wage increase.

Representatives of the medical services of all institutions in this country met at the Ministry of Health today to attempt to work out a formula satisfactory to all parties.

Meanwhile, first aid stations have been converted into field hospitals and have been handling emergency cases. Surgeons supplied by the strikers have been performing emergency operations in hospitals. Ten emergency operations were performed in this city today and the strikers rejected no call on their services.

The average pay of physicians after taxes and other deductions amounts to 240 pounds (\$133) a month. The physicians are asking for these increases: A chief physician with 25 years' experience, 805 pounds per month instead of 380 pounds; a senior physician, 633 pounds, compared with 337 pounds; an assistant physician, 464 pounds instead of 273.

The burial societies reported that "death had taken a holiday" yesterday in Tel Aviv. In this city of more than 200,000 population, with a normal death rate of 18 per day, not a single death was reported yesterday. As one representative of a burial society put it: "The Angel of Death seems to have joined the striking doctors."

COMMONS DEBATES BRITISH AIRLINE'S REFUSAL TO FLY JEWS VIA IRAQ

LONDON, May 19. (JTA) -- A debate was held in the House of Commons today over the practice of the British Overseas Air Corporation not to transport Jews to Iraq or to any other point in the Near East which requires a stop-over at Bagdad.

The debate was precipitated by Barnett Janner, Labor M. P., who asked the government to explain why the BOAC was putting difficulties in the way of Jews, of British or other nationality, who wanted to travel to Iraq or through Iraq. He also demanded that the government obtain from the corporation assurances that such discrimination would cease.

J. D. Profumo, Joint Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Transportation and Civil Aviation, said that since 1950 the BOAC, on the basis of an Iraqi regulation, had refused to take Jews on such routes unless they had special visas issued by Bagdad. Mr. Profumo insisted that such regulations had been issued in the interests of Jewish passengers, to avoid embarrassment and inconvenience to them.

At this point another Laborite, Sidney Silverman, interjected that Iraq had refused to issue such visas to any Jew crossing its territory. He called the British Government's refusal to act in this matter "connivance against British subjects travelling in British aircraft." Again Mr. Profumo insisted that the regulations were in the best interests of Jewish passengers. He also said he knew of no case where a Jewish passenger had been halted in transit in Iraq.

Conservative M. P. William Teeling asked whether this ruling also applied to members of the staff of BOAC who were Jews. He asked for an assurance that under no circumstance would the corporation refuse to hire Jews on this account.

Mr. Profumo said that there had been no discrimination against members of the Jewish faith on BOAC's staff. The regulations, he added, referred to any person of the Jewish faith. He also noted that there were two other routes over which Jews could reach their destinations in the East.

Mr. Janner, who referred to the matter as a "case of shocking discrimination," said that owing to the unsatisfactory nature of Mr. Profumo's reply he would again raise the issue in the near future.

Afterwards, a BOAC spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Arab governments had informed the line that they would not permit Israelis to enter their territory or cross it. Iraq, he added, had extended this ban to all Jews. For any airline to contravene this regulation would mean that the Iraqis would inflict their maximum punishment "amounting to impounding the aircraft." In view of this and for their own sake, the spokesman declared, bookings were not accepted from Jews on this route.

APPOINTMENT OF EX-NAZI AS GERMANY'S OBSERVER TO U. N. CANCELLED

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. May 19. (JTA) -- Jewish protests against the appointment by the West German Government of Peter Pfeiffer, a former Nazi diplomat, as its observer at the United Nations have resulted in the withdrawal of the appointment, it was learned here today.

U. N. Secretary Dag Hammarskjöld was today informed by Dr. Hans Riesser, German Consul in New York, that the Adenauer Government has re-assigned Herr Pfeiffer to another position.

MONACO ACCEDES TO U. N. CONVENTION ON STATUS OF REFUGEES

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., May 19. (JTA) -- Monaco has deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which came into force on April 22, the UN Legal Department announced today. The Convention establishes minimum rights for refugees under the mandate of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, including the right to asylum, to work, to education, to public relief and to freedom of religion.

RUMANIA "CONDITIONS" JEWS TO TESTIFY AGAINST JEWISH LEADERS

WASHINGTON, May 19. (JTA) -- The Rumanian National Committee here charged today that Jews who returned to Rumania from Israel are being "conditioned" to act as prosecution witnesses in a forthcoming trial of Zionist leaders now imprisoned in Rumania.

The committee said the return of Jews "is assuming the proportions of a major tragedy for the Jewish people." It reported that those Jews "lured by the glittering promises of the Rumanian People's Republic authorities met the expectable disillusionments upon landing. Most of them have been unable to find either lodgings or employment, though both had been promised them."

(In Montreal, Michael Garber, chairman of the executive committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress, sharply condemned the Rumanian Government for its policy of secret trials of Rumanian Jewish leaders, and called upon the satellite nation to "halt the trials now in process and to restore to freedom the men and women who have already too long languished in prison." His statement was issued following a meeting of the CJC executive committee, at which it was revealed that "absolutely authentic" information regarding the secret trials in Rumania had reached Congress headquarters.)

HIGH NAZI OFFICIAL APPOINTED CHIEF OF POLICE OF GERMAN CAPITAL

BOEN, May 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Wilhelm Tegethoff, former chief of political indoctrination for the Nazi Party in Waldenburg, has been appointed Chief of Police of this city, the capital of West Germany.

The ex-Nazi official has now become the guardian of public safety and of the German Constitution in the German capital despite the fact that he was a trusted leader of the Nazi regime. During the last three years of the war he held the post of Deputy Police President of Hanover, a position given only to reliable Nazis.

CHIEF OF STAFF OF NAZI STORM TROOPS NAMED TEACHER IN GERMANY

HANOVER, May 19. (JTA) -- Hans Schepmann, during the Nazi regime chief of staff of the brownshirted SA Storm Troopers, was named a teacher at the local school by the town council of Gifhorn, with the Social Democratic Councilmen voting in the affirmative.

Although he is an elementary school teacher by training, Schepmann has not entered a classroom for a quarter of a century. A Nazi Party member since 1922, he was chief organizer of the brownshirted hoodlums in the Ruhr area even before Hitler's advent to power. Thereafter, his rise was swift--SA general, police chief of Dortmund, governor of Danzig, stormtroop chief of staff. "After the war I shall be an even more fanatical National Socialist," he once declared in a public address at Frankfurt.

This record notwithstanding, a denazification court ruled that he had never been a Nazi. He joined the BHE refugee party, became an official thereof and, in a development that alarmed the world, was elected to the Gifhorn town council two years ago.

The Lower Saxony Ministry of Education has refused to confirm him in his new position, at least until the conclusion in July of a trial he faces for crimes against humanity. If he is acquitted, and in view of the fact that he has been "denazified," observers doubt whether he can still be barred from becoming an educator of German youth.

BIRCBIDJAN RADIO MARKS 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF REGION'S ESTABLISHMENT

LONDON, May 19. (JTA) -- The 20th anniversary of the establishment of the autonomous Jewish region of Birobidjan in the USSR was hailed in a broadcast from Birobidjan monitored here today. The announcer said that the "ardour of full blooded life" flourished in every corner of the region.

ADOPTION OF "LAW OF CHRIST" AMENDMENT CONSIDERED UNLIKELY

WASHINGTON, May 19. (JTA) -- Informed Congressional sources today were of the opinion that little likelihood exists for adoption by Congress of the proposed Constitutional amendment recognizing Christianity as the official national religion of the United States.

Congressional hearings have been adjourned. There is no indication when or whether they are to be resumed. Before adjournment the Senate subcommittee under the chairmanship of Sen. William Langer, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, heard unscheduled testimony from David A. Brody, a Washington representative of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Mr. Brody pointed out that prior testimony unfortunately took the form of a debate between Christians and Jews whereas actually many Christians share the opposition views of major Jewish organizations. He questioned the exploitation and abuse of the hearings by the so-called "Militant Christian Patriots" whose testimony sought to align Christians against Jews. The "Militant Christian Patriots," earlier in the hearings, appealed to religious prejudice by characterizing Jewish organizations as "anti-Christian."

Mr. Brody told the subcommittee that it is preferable to have religion as an active influence in the hearts and minds of people rather than having it written into national Constitutional law.

CONVENTION OF CONSERVATIVE RABBIS ASSAILS IMMIGRATION LAW

UNIONTOWN, Pa., May 19. (JTA) -- The 54th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly of America, now in session here, today adopted a resolution deploring the racist provisions of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Law and called upon Congress to enact the Lehman Bill or other legislation which "better reflects our democratic and moral aspirations." The fact that less than 20 persons have been admitted to the U.S. since the enactment of the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 was decried as a "national and international disgrace."

In another resolution, the rabbis decried the U.S. failure to ratify the Genocide Convention and called upon the Administration and the leadership of the Senate to press for vigorous and prompt action.

The convention unanimously urged the U.S. Government to "exert all its power and prestige in the United Nations to persuade the Arab states to negotiate with Israel for a permanent peace settlement." At the same time, they asked the government to press for action in solving the Arab refugee problem in a way which "will be equitable both to the Arabs and to Israel." They called for a continuation of "substantial economic assistance to all the states in the Middle East."

A new project to establish the Louis Ginzberg Chair in Talmud and the Alexander Marx Chair in the History of Jewish Literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America was announced at the convention. The two endowed chairs are intended as memorials to perpetuate the lifework of the two noted Jewish scholars who died recently. Co-chairmen of the national committee charged with raising \$500,000 for the project are Rabbi Morris Adler, Detroit, and Rabbi Abraham Heller, Brooklyn.

CHICAGO POLICE PROTECT SYNAGOGUE AFTER ACTS OF VANDALISM

CHICAGO, May 19. (JTA) -- Special police protection has been assigned to the new \$600,000 South Shore Temple here after recent acts of vandalism. The action was ordered by Mayor Kennelly. The vandals have made it a practice to throw ink and oil on the building. Sandblasting was needed recently to remove some of the ink stains.

EISENHOWER LAUDS WORKMEN'S CIRCLE ACTIVITIES; GREET'S CONVENTION

ATLANTIC CITY, May 19. (JTA) -- "Best wishes for continued effective service in the years ahead" were expressed today by President Eisenhower to the Workmen's Circle, 54-year-old Jewish fraternal organization, in a message to the convention of the order, which has more than 70,000 members. The message, addressed to Nathan Chanin, general secretary of the organization, reads:

"Since 1900, your organization has promoted and strengthened our democratic ideals by helping immigrants adjust to their new American environment, and that through sickness and death benefits, relief of unemployed, health services, schools and summer camps, the Workmen's Circle has advanced the well-being of its members.

"I also understand that, while supporting and encouraging adherence to our American heritage, you have also promoted Jewish education and helped to preserve Jewish culture. My congratulations go to the members of the Workmen's Circle, with my best wishes for continued effective service in the years ahead."

CONSERVATIVE RABBIS AMEND TRADITIONAL JEWISH MARRIAGE CONTRACT

NEW YORK, May 19. (JTA) -- The traditional Jewish marriage contract--the Ketubah--will be amended under a decision taken by the joint law committee of the Rabbinical Assembly of America and the Jewish Theological Seminary, it was announced here today. The amended text of the contract would be available for use at all Jewish marriages before the end of the summer.

Dr. Saul Lieberman, Professor of Talmud at the Seminary, drafted the new form which, authorities say, is the first adaptation of the Ketubah in over 1,000 years. In the new Ketubah, the bride and groom both agree to live in accordance with the Jewish marriage law throughout their lives and to take no steps toward disruption of their marriage without consulting rabbinical authorities.

Either the wife or the husband will be entitled to call the other spouse before the rabbinic court, and both empower the court to set such terms as it may see fit for failure to obey its summons or decisions.

STRENGTHENING OF JEWISH EDUCATION URGED BY N. C. J. E. CONFERENCE

PHILADELPHIA, May 19. (JTA) -- The National Council for Jewish Education, at its national conference here today, adopted a resolution calling for the organization of regional conferences in order to strengthen the NCJE's work throughout the United States. Another resolution which was adopted provides for the implementation of a pension plan for NCJE members, who are the outstanding Jewish educators in the country.

Dr. David Rudavsky, executive director of the Jewish Education Association of Essex County, N. J., was elected president of the NCJE.

WORLD SEPHARDIC CONGRESS CLOSES; ADVOCATES IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, May 19. (JTA) -- The Second World Sephardic Congress closed here after electing a ten-member world directorate and a 30-member executive, consisting of 10 Israelis and 20 Sephardic leaders from abroad.

The parley also called upon new immigrants to Israel--more than half of whom are Sephardic Jews--to take up agricultural work, but at the same time the delegates urged the Israel Government and the Zionist movement to help the Sephardic immigrants give their children elementary and secondary school education and to help them adjust to the new life in Israel.

Finally, the delegates from some 20 countries called on Sephardic youth to immigrate to Israel and help in the country's upbuilding.

MORE JEWISH GROUPS HAIL SUPREME COURT'S BAN ON SEGREGATION

NEW YORK, May 19. (JTA) -- More national Jewish organizations today expressed gratification over the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court outlawing racial segregation in public schools.

Henry Edward Schultz, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said in a statement: "The Court's decision will wipe out the anachronistic 'separate but equal' doctrine that has been nothing more than a legal cover for the imposition of second-class status on millions of Negro citizens. The people of the South, white and Negro, will be the better for it."

Adolph Held, national chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, declared: "Coming at a time when the free world is engaged in a life and death struggle against the sinister forces of Communism, the ruling constitutes a living proof that opportunities for progress and expanding freedom can be provided within the framework of democracy. This is the best argument that America could have given to the uncommitted millions who are as yet not certain that democracy is the only road to peace, security and freedom."

PROF. BRODETSKY'S FUNERAL TODAY; CORTEGE WILL STOP AT W. Z. O.

LONDON, May 19. (JTA) -- The funeral of Prof. Selig Brodetsky, noted world Zionist statesman and for a decade spokesman for British Jewry, who died here yesterday, will be held tomorrow. The funeral cortege will make a brief stop at the headquarters of the World Zionist Organization here where Prof. Brodetsky worked for many years.

Ambassador Eliahu Elath of Israel today issued a statement expressing deep shock and grief over the death of Prof. Brodetsky who, he said, would be remembered by the people of Israel and Zionists all over the world "as one of the main architects in this country of Jewish independence." He will be "sorely missed by all who had the privilege of knowing and working with him," Ambassador Elath said.

U.S. Jewish Leaders Mourn Death of Prof. Brodetsky

NEW YORK, May 19. (JTA) -- Zionist leaders in the United States today expressed a deep sense of sorrow at the death in London of Prof. Brodetsky.

On behalf of the Zionist Organization of America, Rabbi Irving Miller, president, said in a statement: "As an internationally-honored scholar and teacher, as the leader of British Zionism and as a member of the Jewish Agency executive, Professor Brodetsky made enduring contributions to the life of his time and that of future generations. The Jewish people everywhere will honor his memory."

Dr. George S. Wise, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University, stated: "Israel and the educational world will long remember Prof. Selig Brodetsky for his lifelong leadership in Zionism, his brilliant academic career and his great contributions to the educational future of Israel as president of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem."

Joseph Mazer, associate chairman of the board of directors of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, declared: "The American Friends of the Hebrew University are saddened to learn of the passing of Professor Selig Brodetsky, who gave devoted service over a span of many years to the Hebrew University, as both President and member of the Board of Governors, and to the State of Israel. He was a distinguished mathematician, scientist and educator, and an outstanding Jewish leader on the world scene. His death is a serious loss to the State of Israel and all Jewry."

Dr. Abraham Goldstein, president of the World Confederation of General Zionists, said: "The passing of Prof. Selig Brodetsky deprives the Jewish people and the Zionist movement of one of its most illustrious personalities."