



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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VOL. XXI No. 119 - 36th year

Wednesday, June 23, 1954

STATE DEPT. SAYS NO REMOVAL OF U. N. TRUCE CHIEF IS CONTEMPLATED

WASHINGTON, June 22. (JTA) -- The State Department said today that no major change has been recommended involving the United Nations truce supervision organization. The Department said:

"Reports from the Near East have indicated that the United States and Great Britain have proposed a new plan for extending the powers of the United Nations truce organization in the area to deal with problems existing with Israel and the Arab states. There is no change being recommended concerning this United Nations truce supervisory organization and no recommendation has been made concerning the possible replacement of Gen. Vagn Bennike. The present proposals are simply another of a series of considerations which are from time to time put to interested parties for their consideration to help lessen border strife."

Israel Minister Plenipotentiary Reuven Shiloah today met for over an hour with Assistant Secretary of State Henry A. Byroade to continue a discussion of regional political instability. The subject was raised last week when a previous meeting of Israel diplomats was held with Mr. Byroade at the Department.

France Joins New Proposals on U. N. Truce Machinery

JERUSALEM, June 22. (JTA) -- The French Ambassador to Israel called at the Israel Foreign Ministry today to express his government's identification with the new Anglo-American proposals for the United Nations truce machinery in Palestine made with a view to lessening the tension along Israel's borders, it was learned here.

Meanwhile, Gen. Vagn Bennike, head of the UN truce organization, wrote today to the former Israel delegate to the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission--which Israel is boycotting--requesting permission for UN observers to visit the village of Mevoot Betar and collect evidence on the scene of the Israel-Jordan incident in which three Israelis were murdered Saturday morning.

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Council held hearings today on the incident, listening to the accounts of the local commander and border police who were called in to assist the settlers. The picture that was pieced together was that a five-man patrol was ambushed by three Arab units, two of which were posted inside Israel and the last in Jordan. After an hour, two of the five Israelis were killed and one was wounded. The other two fled for reinforcements.

When the border police arrived all the bodies were gone and the bloodstains on the ground indicated that they had been dragged into Jordan territory. Military authorities said that post mortems revealed that the bodies had been abused and mutilated.

ANTI-JEWISH LITERATURE IN ENGLAND REPORTED COMING FROM U.S.

LONDON, June 22. (JTA) -- Most of the anti-Semitic literature distributed in England comes from the United States, it was reported here today at the conference of leaders of Jewish communities throughout the British Commonwealth.

The report was delivered at a session devoted to Jewish defense activities against anti-Semitism. It was emphasized that although the Fascist movement in England is losing ground to a "remarkable degree," vigilance is still necessary. The report was presented by Reuben Liebermann, chairman of the defense committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Mr. Liebermann emphasized that the Mosley Union movement, which was engaged in anti-Jewish propaganda in England, was disintegrating owing to apathy on the part of the public. "Mosley himself, who is now living in Ireland, plays down now the anti-Semitic angle in his speeches," Mr. Liebermann said. "However, there are still small groups of troublemakers who are concerned mostly with the distribution of pamphlets."

Declaring that most of these pamphlets come from the United States, Mr. Liebermann singled out "Common Sense," an anti-Jewish paper published in New Jersey. Anti-Jewish pamphlets by R.K. Rudman have been received from South Africa, and anti-Jewish material is also being received in London from the notorious Scandinavian anti-Semite Einar Aberg.

Queen Elizabeth Greets Jewish Commonwealth Conference

The representatives of some 900,000 Jews in the British Commonwealth countries received a message from Queen Elizabeth today thanking them for an expression of fealty and support they had sent her yesterday, when the conference opened. The message from the private secretary to the Queen said: "Please convey to the delegates to the conference of Commonwealth Jews assembled to discuss problems of common Jewish interest the sincere thanks of the Queen for their very kind message and for the assurance of their prayers which Her Majesty greatly appreciates."

The position of Jews in the Soviet Union and other Communist countries, the rearmament of Germany and the need for unity among the Jews of the world were discussed here today at another session of the conference of Commonwealth Jewry.

Barnett Janner, British M. P., who presided at today's session on foreign affairs, noted that in the Soviet Union there had been from time to time purges of those Jews who had been associated with the Communist regime, but "this was the fate that Jew and non-Jew suffered alike." He added that "hundreds of thousands lived under a terrible pressure" that was not quite persecution but one of the nearest things to it. In the satellite countries, Mr. Janner said, "cruel sentences" had been passed on Jews on the pretext that they had engaged in Zionist activities.

On the question of German rearmament, Mr. Janner emphasized that the Board of Deputies of British Jews had warned of the need to watch German militarism. He also reported that the Board of Deputies had called on the Western Powers to make certain that the West German Government fulfilled its obligations under the Luxembourg reparations pact with Israel and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

Dr. Noah Barou, World Jewish Congress leader, spoke on the importance of not isolating Commonwealth Jewry's problems from those of international effect. Prof. Norman Bentwich, a British Jewish leader, detailed the progress made in reparations matters and reported that the United Restitution Office had extended its work to cover individual claims for indemnification for loss of liberty by victims of the Nazis.

BIROBIDJAN NO LONGER JEWISH REGION, U.S. CORRESPONDENT FINDS

NEW YORK, June 22. (JTA) -- There are about 100,000 Jews living today in Birobidjan, Siberia, which was officially proclaimed a Jewish autonomous region years ago by the Moscow Government. However, Jewish immigration has dropped considerably during the last eight years and interest in the Yiddish language has declined to a point where the only Yiddish theatre there has been closed down and the Yiddish newspaper which appears three times a week is published in only 1,000 copies, as compared with the daily Russian-language newspaper which has a circulation of 10,000.

An extensive report on the situation of the Jews in Birobidjan was published today in the New York Times by its Moscow correspondent Harrison E. Salisbury, who visited the province about ten days ago. "While Birobidjan has grown and expanded since World War II it must be emphasized that its importance as an area primarily dedicated to the settlement of persons of Jewish nationality has tended steadily to decline," the New York Times correspondent reports.

The correspondent suggested to Lev Yefremovich Vinkevich, administrative head of the Birobidjan Provincial Government, that from the factual viewpoint instead of being called a Jewish region, the area might equally well be called a Soviet region since Jews are actually only one of a number of nationalities living in the area. Mr. Vinkevich, a Jew who was transferred to work in Birobidjan from Kuibyshev five years ago, agreed that the region was indeed "very Soviet."

The correspondent asked Mr. Vinkevich to explain the difference in emphasis given to the Yiddish language and culture in Birobidjan compared with that placed, for example, on the Yakut language and culture in Yakutia. Mr. Vinkevich suggested that in Yakutia and other "younger" Soviet republics the problem was one of undeveloped or hitherto neglected or repressed national qualities. With the Jews, he said, it was a question of a matured nationality. The Jews of Birobidjan, said Mr. Vinkevich, except for insignificant older elements, all read and use the Russian language and in fact prefer Russian to Yiddish.

Jews Constitute Only About 50 Percent of the Population

The New York Times correspondent estimates that the total population of the Jewish Autonomous Region is about 200,000, nearly twice the population at the last census of 1939. Most of the increase has been in rural areas. The present estimate of the percentage of Jewish population to the whole is "about 50 percent," with percentages running a bit higher in urban than in rural areas.

"The accuracy of the 50 percent estimate seemed fairly well borne out by the situation in schools, factories, shops and other institutions," Mr. Salisbury reports. "This correspondent asked for the Jewish percentage in each instance and the answer invariably was in the vicinity of 50 percent," he writes.

"Present population accretions," he continues, "are said by officials to be largely Russians and Ukrainians and do not seem to be drawn from any specific area of the country. Post-war immigration has included Jews from a number of Ukrainian cities, Tartars from the Crimea, Russians from almost all points in European Russia, and a fair sprinkling of other peoples, including some from the Caucasus. At the present time, there does not appear to be a very high Jewish percentage among the newcomers but the movement of Jews to Birobidjan has not completely stopped."

Birobidjan Jews Ignore Israel, Jewish Life Abroad

As far as the knowledge and interest of Birobidjan Jews in foreign developments concerning fellow Jews is concerned, the correspondent was repeatedly told by Birobidjan officials that this interest was no greater on the part of Jews than among any other groups of Soviet citizens. "Never during question periods, which uniformly occurred when this correspondent was escorted through schools, factories or other

institutions, were questions asked about Jews abroad, Israel, Zionism or other matters of Jewish interest. Officials said this reflected a lack of interest on the part of Jews in such matters, " Mr. Salisbury reports.

All street signs are in Russian and Yiddish. Most public institutions and some industrial establishments post their names in both Russian and Yiddish. However, the party and administrative offices carry their designations only in Russian.

The local radio station generally transmits programs from Khabarovsk and Moscow. Two hours weekly, on Tuesdays and Fridays, there are broadcasts in Yiddish. This is considered sufficient to meet the present needs of the Yiddish-speaking population. The library director, a young Jewish woman, told the correspondent that the library had 100,000 volumes, including 29,000 in Yiddish. In the museum there was a wealth of agricultural, industrial and historical exhibits about the region, but no emphasis on the Jewish side except for a copy of the Shtern of 1935.

There were Yiddish books to be found in a local bookshop, however. They included a 1939 edition of the "Short Course of the History of the Communist Party" and several volumes on Sholem Aleichem published in Moscow in 1948. A Yiddish theatre existed until a few years ago, when, according to local officials, it became "unprofitable." It has now been converted into a club for young people, the Times correspondent established.

"REMARKABLE PROGRESS" IN ISRAEL'S ECONOMY REPORTED BY UJA LEADER

NEW YORK, June 22. (JTA) -- Israel in the last seven months has made "remarkable progress" in its drive to attain economic independence and this upward rate can be maintained, "even accelerated," if American Jews continue to give substantial support to the United Jewish Appeal, Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, executive vice-chairman of the UJA, declared today as he arrived here from a five-day consultation visit in Jerusalem with leaders of the Israel Government and the Jewish Agency.

Dr. Schwartz, accompanied by Morris W. Berinstein, a UJA national campaign chairman, announced that the UJA would get plans under way immediately for the raising of \$50,000,000 in cash before the year's end. He said that the aim of this drive would be "to sustain Israel's encouraging economic advances, especially in agriculture."

Mr. Berinstein, who has agreed to assume the added post of national cash committee chairman, said that he would begin formation this week of a special nationally-recruited leadership group which would join in working out details of the nationwide \$50,000,000 mobilization.

Dr. Schwartz, contrasting Israel's improved economic position with his last visit there in October, 1953, said that "hundreds of new agricultural settlements are now firmly established, thanks to American Jewry's support of this program through the UJA, while the acute food shortage, in vegetables and other edibles, has finally been overcome."

"It would be criminal," he declared, "if a shortage of funds due to relaxed support of the United Jewish Appeal forced any slowdown in the pace and tempo of Israel's drive toward economic stability. If Israel is to attain the economic strength necessary to offset Arab economic and political pressures, American Jews must not only continue but must intensify their support of the UJA."

ISRAEL PRESIDENT REPORTED IMPROVING AFTER MINOR SURGERY

JERUSALEM, June 22. (JTA) -- President Ben Zvi, who yesterday underwent minor surgery, was reported today to be improving. He was said to have walked about his room for several minutes today.

Z.O.A. CONVENTION OPENS TODAY; WILL DISCUSS IMPORTANT ISSUE

NEW YORK, June 22. (JTA) -- The 57th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America will open its five-day sessions tomorrow night at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel to discuss and act upon major issues confronting the Zionist movement and Israel today. Some 1,200 delegates representing more than 600 districts throughout the country will participate in the sessions.

Throughout the sessions, the main issues to be discussed will embrace the future status of the World Zionist Organization, the relationship between the American Jewish community and Israel, broader Zionist role in American-Jewish communal life and the ZOA program for the coming year.

The opening session tomorrow will be highlighted by the presidential address of Rabbi Irving Miller reviewing the Zionist activities in the past year and the current situation on the American and world Zionist scenes. Louis Lipsky, chairman of the American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs, will deliver the principal address on Theodor Herzl on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the death of the founder of the Zionist movement. The convention will be addressed by Robert Murphy, U.S. Deputy Under Secretary of State, who is expected to present in behalf of the U.S. State Department a statement on American policy toward Israel.

CONVENTION OF REFORM RABBIS HEARS REPORT ON ISRAEL

PIKE, N.H., June 22. (JTA) -- The 65th convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, reform, rabbinical body, opened here today with a presidential address by Dr. Joseph L. Fink of Buffalo, praising Israel, deploring ultra-orthodoxy in Israel and condemning the anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism.

Reporting on a visit he made to Israel earlier this year, Rabbi Fink told the convention: "Although there is anxiety in Israel, there is no fear." He proceeded to praise the spirit of the Israelis, deplore extreme nationalism, express hope for the emergence of a liberal religious movement in Israel, and to denounce the anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism.

The people of Israel display a "hardening of the moral fiber and a determined ambition" in spite of the daily crises confronting them, said the CCAR president. But the country "stands in sore need of two requirements." The first need is material and supplying that need is "justice, not charity," observed the rabbi, pleading for greater support of the United Jewish Appeal.

The second need is that of peace and toward that end, Dr. Fink asked the rabbis to go on record demanding of the American Government that "it use its best offices speedily and resolutely to promote conditions" of a settlement of the disputes between Israel and her Arab neighbors.

Predicting a "great spiritual revival in Israel," Rabbi Fink indicated that there "are some areas in Israel where zeal for Orthodoxy is of an extreme character and runs so high that the neighbor who is not Orthodox is excluded from the teaching of 'Love thy neighbor.'" The speaker assured his audience that "there are unmistakable signs of the diminution of Orthodoxy's influence" on the Israelis. He recommended that the conference appoint a committee of men familiar with conditions in Israel to "formulate a program that might inspire the indigenous extension of liberal Judaism in Israel."

Dr. Fink reserved his strongest utterances to assail the views and actions associated with the bitterly anti-Zionist American Council of Judaism. Without mentioning the organization by name, Dr. Fink asserted, "we lament the short-sightedness of those Jews who refuse to see the vital connection between the fate of Israel and the fate of world Jewry."

3,712 JEWISH IMMIGRANTS ADMITTED TO CANADA DURING YEAR

MONTREAL, June 22. (JTA) -- The number of Jewish immigrants admitted to Canada in the year ended March 31, 1954 was 3,712, it was reported here today. Of this number, 3,027 arrived via ocean ports and 685 from the United States. Jewish immigrants formed 2.13 percent of the total number of immigrants admitted to Canada during this year.

Immigrants of German origin formed the largest group admitted to Canada during the year, followed in order of size by those of English, Italian, Dutch, Scottish, Irish and Jewish origin. All of these groups showed an increase over the previous year with the exception of immigrants of Jewish origin who decreased by 27.1 percent. The decrease among the Jewish immigrants was greater than among any other ethnic group except those of Latvian, Lithuanian and Ukrainian origin.

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY TO SEEK \$30,000,000 IN TEN YEARS

NEW YORK, June 22. (JTA) -- A goal of \$30,000,000 to be sought during the next ten years for maintenance and endowment of the Jewish Theological Seminary was proposed here today to the national planning committee of the Seminary by Daniel G. Ross, chairman of the committee.

His report revealed that, during the academic year 1953-54, to June 22, \$1,083,300 had been contributed for maintenance of the Seminary, the United Synagogue, and the Rabbinical Assembly. \$1,250,000 had been subscribed to the Endowment Fund.

"The Seminary buildings are 25 years old this year," Mr. Ross said. "A look at these years shows a doubling in student enrollment, an increase in the Seminary library from 79,000 volumes and manuscripts in 1929 to 165,000 today, and an increase in the budget from \$202,000 to \$1,400,000 in 1954."

GROWTH OF HEBREW IN U.S. REPORTED AT HISTADRUT IVRITH PARLEY

ATLANTIC CITY, June 22. (JTA) -- There has been a substantial increase in Hebrew language and cultural activities in the United States, and particularly in the New York area, it was reported here last night at the closing sessions of the national conference of Histadrut Ivrit, the Hebrew culture organization.

The reports emphasized that this progress was to a great extent made possible by the cooperation and support of the Jewish Agency's Department of Education and Culture. The work of Histadrut Ivrit was hailed in a speech at the convention by Abraham Harmon, Israel Consul General in New York. The organization's new praesidium, elected last night, consists of: Dr. Samuel L. Blumenfeld, Dr. Samuel K. Mirsky, and Morris B. Newman.

REMAINS OF DR. AMIR BURIED IN ISRAEL; STATE FUNERAL HELD

TEL AVIV, June 22. (JTA) -- The remains of Dr. Michael Amir, Israel Minister to The Hague, were today buried in the Tel Aviv cemetery after a state funeral in which Premier Moshe Sharett, Speaker of the Knesset Joseph Sprinzak, members of Parliament and leaders of all strata of Israel life participated. The Ministers from Belgium and Holland were present.

The funeral cortege, which started from the Keren Hayesod building here, where the body had lain in state since last night when it was flown from Amsterdam, was led off by a unit of mounted police and by the Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv. At the cemetery Premier Sharett delivered a eulogy in which he recalled Dr. Amir's role in solidifying Israel's relations with the Benelux countries and his contributions as a leader of Rumanian Zionism. In this connection he noted that Rumanian Zionist leaders were under arrest in Rumania and could not be present except in spirit.