



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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VOL. XXI No. 140 - 36th year

Monday July 26, 1954

ISRAEL APPREHENSIVE OVER BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM SUEZ AREA

JERUSALEM, July 25. (JTA) -- Apprehension is felt here at the prospect of the British withdrawal from the Suez Canal zone in Egypt, despite the fact that the British Government has announced its intention of reaffirming the 1950 British-American-French declaration which guarantees the present Arab-Israel frontiers.

It was pointed out here today that the withdrawal of the British troops from the Suez area provides for Egypt a splendidly equipped military base there, which, together with the present intentions on the part of the United States Government to give military aid to Egypt, will radically change the military situation and place Israel in greater danger of Arab aggression.

The British departure, it was explained here today, will bring a greatly strengthened Egypt up from her own lines on the other side of Sinai and of the Suez Canal, and right against Israel's southern border from Elath, on the gulf of Aquaba, to Askalon, which is about one hour's run from Tel Aviv. The present defensible border will then become a border requiring exceptional defense measures on the part of Israel.

This, in addition to the American rearmament of Iraq and possibly Syria, has created a situation of gravity and urgency for Israel, it was stressed here today. Israelis claim that the British reaffirmation of the 1950 Tripartite Declaration shows only that Britain understands Israel's apprehensions, but does not by any means reassure Israel or redress regional equilibrium.

Although some circles here believe that the reaffirmation of the American-British-French declaration, if expressed unequivocally, would be better than nothing, they point out that it could not possibly relieve Israel from the back-breaking compulsion to raise her means of defense to a new high level.

Egyptian Attack on Israel Port of Elath Held Possible

The general feeling prevailing here is that the factors now encouraging the United States to woo the Arab states by "adjusting" in their favor the military balance between them and Israel, would weigh just as much in the event of aggressive moves by Egypt against Israel, especially if these moves were piecemeal.

It is feared, for instance, that Egypt may be tempted to occupy the Israeli port of Elath with the object of bringing the Egyptian frontier up against the frontiers of Jordan. And few in Israel think that the signatories of the Tripartite Declaration would -- if Egypt gained her objective -- risk antagonizing the Arabs

by compelling Egyptian withdrawal from the strategic Israeli port on the Gulf.

Foreign observers here consider as justified Israel's argument that, when the Jewish State was at war with Egypt in 1948, her forces advanced deep into the Sinai peninsula but then withdrew to the north because it was felt that the Sinai Desert, with British forces at its southern edge, was an effective barrier to Egyptian military adventure against Israel.

Those in Israel who make this claim - and they include some influential members of the government - add that these circumstances were foremost also in the minds of the Israeli negotiators when the armistice with Egypt was concluded in 1949. Thus, British withdrawal from Egypt basically weakens Israel's present defense positions vis-a-vis Egypt, since it changes the military balance in the area and make it easier for Egypt to attack Israel, government officials emphasize.

(The New York Times, in a cable today from its correspondent in Jerusalem, similarly emphasized that, if the present negotiations between Egypt and Britain result in the withdrawal of British troops from the Suez Canal base, Israel defense positions will be materially weakened. The report said that some Israelis are seeking means to match the expected Egyptian development by diplomatic action.)

Egyptian Premier Threatens Israel; Says "Explosion" Possible

NEW YORK, July 25. (JTA) -- The Egyptian Premier, Lt. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, addressing a crowd of 50,000 in Cairo, threatened Israel with an "explosion" in the Middle East, and indicated that Egypt does not intend to negotiate any peace treaty with Israel, it was reported in the New York Times from Cairo.

"We would like to declare that, if the Israeli aggressions do not cease and if Israel continues to fail to comply with repeated decisions of the United Nations, the situation in the Near East may explode," Colonel Nasser said. "Such an explosion would be far less costly to the Arab world than to the patrons of Israel who are responsible for keeping her alive."

The Egyptian Premier mentioned the efforts of the Western powers to create an effective defense organization in the Middle East and also limitations put on arms shipments to the Arab states pending the concluding of a peace treaty with Israel. The defense of the Middle East, said Colonel Nasser, was primarily the responsibility of the Arabs.

ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE DISCUSSES URGENT RESCUE OF JEWS

JERUSALEM, July 25. (JTA) -- The danger for Jews in certain countries is real and imminent, and their rescue cannot be postponed, despite the fact that there are still 20,000 Jewish immigrants in the transition camps in Israel, and notwithstanding the fact that Israel has now about 20,000 unemployed.

This was part of a report delivered today at the World Zionist Actions Committee, now in session here, by Dr. G. Josephthal, treasurer of the Jewish Agency. He said that the Agency is resolved not to bring the new immigrants to camps but to settle them directly on land. The minimum cost of settlement of each family would be about 10,000 Israeli pounds, he estimated.

S. Z. Sharagai, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, reported that 50,000 Jews will seek entrance to Israel during the coming year. "For 25,000 of them, immigration to Israel is a matter of life or death," he declared, emphasizing that he came to this conclusion following his recent visit to a number of countries.

"Some Jewish communities," he reported "are living like on isolated islands, surrounded by a hostile, sometimes bloodthirsty population." These communities, he said, appealed to him during his visit to bring them immediately to Israel.

AMERICAN FINANCIAL AID TO ISRAEL WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED

WASHINGTON, July 25. (JTA) -- The House Appropriations Committee yesterday reported out the Foreign Aid bill, with the amount of aid for the Near Eastern area reduced from the Administration's request of \$130,000,000 to \$115,000,000.

The House bill now goes to the floor. The reduction in Near Eastern funds corresponds with the authorization bill reported out by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee which made an identical reduction.

The \$115,000,000 would cover sums for Israel, the Arab League states and other Near Eastern countries as well as Africa. The State Department has made known that the Arab League states will receive a larger share than Israel. The sum for Israel will be reduced below the \$52,500,000 given during the last fiscal year. The sum for the Arabs is to be increased.

It is estimated that Israel will receive \$40,000,000 or less during the coming year. The State Department maintains that, because of German reparations payments and an improved financial situation, Israel's needs have been reduced.

U.N. BODY ASKS LEBANON TO PREVENT ARAB INFILTRATION INTO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, July 25. (JTA) -- The chairman of the Israel-Lebanese Mixed Armistice Commission this week-end called upon Lebanon to keep elements suspected of border infiltration and attacks on Israel out of the frontier districts, in order to prevent the recurrence of recent attacks. The chairman made his appeal at an emergency meeting of the MAC convened at Israel's request to consider an attack on an Israeli tractor operator at Chamitta, in northern Israel, last week.

An Israeli military spokesman, meanwhile, announced that an Israeli patrol near Kissufim, in the Gaza strip demilitarized zone, had surprised a unit of Egyptian infiltrators inside Israel. In an exchange of fire, in which one of the Arabs was wounded, the Egyptian unit retreated across the demarcation line.

ISRAEL RANKS NEXT TO U.S. AND CANADA IN ABSORBING IMMIGRANTS

GENEVA, July 25. (JTA) -- A total of 4,676,000 men, women and children migrated from Western Europe for permanent settlement in various parts of the world, including Israel, during the period 1946-1953, according to a study released today by the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration.

The figures show that Israel, with an absorption of 750,000 individuals from the total, ranked next to the United States and Canada in the number of Western European migrants it took in during this postwar period. The United States absorbed 1,375,600 in the years 1946-1953, while 772,800 settled in Canada.

However, the study points out that "the nature of the movement of people to Israel puts that country in a special category which would make misleading its inclusion in any generalization about migration from Europe."

U.N. Body Recommends \$12,000,000 Plan for Refugee Integration

GENEVA, July 25. (JTA) -- The United Nations Economic and Social Council yesterday passed on to the General Assembly, for the latter's consideration at its next session, a \$12,000,000, five-year plan to help integrate refugees into the economies of the countries where they are now living.

SOVIET RUSSIA RENEWS INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN AGAINST RELIGION

LONDON, July 25. (JTA) -- Reports from Moscow received here during the week-end indicate that the Soviet Government has embarked on a new and intensified campaign against religion, in an effort to discourage people throughout the USSR from attending churches and synagogues.

Copies of Pravda, official organ of the Communist Party, and of The Literary Gazette, a leading newspaper in Moscow, received here today, carry articles calling for an "unyielding campaign" against religious activities. In a front-page editorial, Pravda requests Communist propagandists to "show believers the error of their way by scientific and atheistic" counter-attack. Of particular concern to Pravda is the fact that more and more Soviet children seem to be "infected" with religious ideas.

SOVIET OFFICIAL EXECUTED FOR FRAME-UP ON MOSCOW DOCTORS

LONDON, July 25. (JTA) -- M. D. Ryumin, onetime investigating magistrate of the Soviet Ministry of State Security, has been executed for his part in the frame-up of 15 Moscow doctors, a number of whom are Jewish, the Moscow Radio, heard here, announced this week-end.

Ryumin was a former aide of the late Lavrenti Beria, executed chief of the Soviet police. He was convicted of having used prohibited methods of investigation to force the doctors to confess to having murdered Andrei Zhdanov and Alexander Scherbakov, high Soviet officials during the Stalin regime, through faulty medicine.

Shortly after the death of Premier Stalin, the doctors were released, and Ryumin and several aids were arrested for having faked evidence of the "plot." Pravda, organ of the Communist Party of the USSR, accused Ryumin of having attempted to spread anti-Semitic sentiment in the country through this plot.

AMSTERDAM JEWISH COMMUNITY REFUSES TO REVOKE BAN ON SPINOZA

NEW YORK, July 25. (JTA) -- A proposal to revoke the Seventeenth Century excommunication of the philosopher Baruch de Spinoza has been rejected by the leaders of the Portuguese Jewish community here, descendants of those who originally banned the eminent scholar, the New York Times reported today from Amsterdam. The suggestion to reconsider the 300-year-old measure came from David Ben-Gurion, Israel's former Prime Minister.

In 1656 the leaders of the Portuguese Jewish community in Amsterdam branded Spinoza's work heretical and dangerous for the faith. The lay leaders of the synagogue announced the excommunication decision. The original record is preserved in the Amsterdam synagogue.

The current synagogue board, the Times report says, left the ultimate decision on whether to do anything about the centuries-old excommunication to the community's Chief Rabbi, Salomon Rodrigues Pereira. The old Rabbi was emphatic last week in expressing his intention to do nothing about the old measure. "No rabbinate has the right to review a decision of previous rabbinates, unless it is greater in number and wiser," he said. This was well known in Jewish tradition, the spiritual leader said, adding, "I don't consider myself wiser than those who came before me." The synagogue board is solidly behind its rabbi, the Times reported.

JEWISH CONGRESSMAN RESIGNS FROM HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, July 25. (JTA) -- Speaker of the House Joseph W. Martin announced this week-end the resignation of a Jewish congressman, Louis B. Heller, New York Democrat. Rep. Heller has been sworn in as Associate Justice of the Court of Special Sessions in New York by Mayor Robert F. Wagner.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS MOVE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS TO WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, July 25. (JTA) -- The Jewish War Veterans of the United States today completed moving its national headquarters to this city, occupying the newly-acquired Shrine for the Jewish War Dead here.

Addressing a meeting of the JWV national executive committee in the new headquarters today, National Commander Harry T. Madison, of Detroit, called the Shrine "a permanent living memorial to the thousands of Jews who paid the supreme sacrifice for American ideals of freedom and democracy."

HARVARD UNIVERSITY INVITES ISRAELI SCIENTIST AS LECTURER

NEW YORK, July 25. (JTA) -- Professor Sydney Goldstein, head of the department of aeronautical engineering of Technion, Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, has been invited to serve as a visiting lecturer of applied science at Harvard University for the academic year 1954-55, it was announced today by J. W. Wunsch, president of the American Technion Society.

General Yaacov Dori, Technion president, revealed that Professor Goldstein had, at his own request, been relieved of his duties as vice-president of Technion so that he may be free to pursue his scientific work. "We look forward to Professor Goldstein's return at the end of his year abroad," General Dori said. "His contributions to the academic, scientific and administrative activity at the Institute during his tenure as vice-president have been outstanding, but we must face the fact that his full devotion to scientific work holds forth even greater promise for Technion and for Israel as a whole."

ISRAELI EDUCATOR HOLDS SEMINARS IN U.S. AND CANADA

NEW YORK, July 25. (JTA) -- A series of seminars on Hebrew literature and culture is being held this summer in various educational institutions in the United States and Canada by Dr. Ephraim Shmuely, Israeli author and educator, according to an announcement here today by the Jewish Agency's Department of Education and Culture.

Dr. Shmuely, head of the Teachers Seminary in Haifa, is conducting his seminar this month at St. Agathe, in Canada. Beginning August 16, he will conduct a seminar in Los Angeles. Both seminars are part of an annual educational project of the Jewish Agency, designed especially for teachers and principals of American Hebrew schools.

PITTSBURGH MAYOR COMPLETES TOUR OF ISRAEL; LAUDS ACHIEVEMENTS

JERUSALEM, July 25. (JTA) -- Mayor David Lawrence of Pittsburgh, completing a tour of Israel this week-end, hailed the "extraordinary development" of Israel in the short space of six years since its establishment. Before explaining for his return to the United States, Mayor Lawrence expressed the opinion that it was the deep devotion and love of country of the Israeli people which is undoubtedly responsible for these achievements.