



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

560 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

Copyright, 1954, by Jewish Telegraphic Agency

VOL. XXI No. 153 - 36th year

Thursday, August 12, 1954

RUMANIAN AUTHORITIES RELEASE 19 ARRESTED JEWISH LEADERS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Reports reaching here today say that Rumanian authorities, who had been arresting and imprisoning Jews in recent months, have released a number of Jewish leaders.

The reports say that 10 Zionist leaders held under "administrative arrest," but not yet formally sentenced, have been released, and nine others serving short terms were also freed.

Among those allegedly freed are David Sternlieb, chairman of the Zionist Federation of Galac; Mrs. D. E. Leibovitz, whose husband is still under arrest; and Misco, Dascalu, former member of the Rumanian parliament.

BONN GOVT. PUBLISHES SPECIAL ISSUE ON GERMAN-ISRAEL RELATIONS

BONN, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- The reparations pact between West Germany and Israel is a "sincere effort on the part of the German people to make amends for atrocities perpetrated in Germany's name," State Secretary Walter Hallstein, who is acting chief of the Foreign Office, declared here today.

Prof. Hallstein made his statement in a frontpage interview in "Das Parlament," an official weekly published by the West German Government's Central Propaganda Agency. A special 10-page issue of "Das Parlament," featuring the interview with Prof. Hallstein, was issued today devoted solely to relations between West Germany and Israel.

Prof. Hallstein points to the improvement of relations with Israel in the last few years, characterizes the reparations agreement as the country's atonement for Nazi atrocities, and discusses the possibility of early resumption of diplomatic relations with the Jewish State.

Concerning the diplomatic relations between the two countries, he declares that "such matters must be permitted to reach fruition in their own good time." It is this country's desire, he continues, "to create a climate of confidence--not the least factor being our faithful carrying out of the reparations agreement."

The interview with Prof. Hallstein was written by Rolf Vogel, a Catholic, who, last spring, was the first German newspaperman to be accredited in Israel by that country's Foreign Office. Vogel also writes in the current, special issue of "Das Parlament" about his experiences in Israel, lauding Israeli achievements there.

Another contributor to the special issue is Dr. F. E. Shinnar, head of the Israel Purchasing Mission which is in charge of buying reparations goods here for the

Jewish State. Dr. Shinnar praises the Federal Republic's performance in implementing the reparations program "both in letter and in spirit."

With strong approval, Dr. Shinnar quotes a statement made last year by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer who had stressed the need for patience and for the "reliance upon the curative power of time" for the greater improvement of Israel-German relations, while expressing the hope that the reparations pact would eventually lead to normalization of those relations.

Issue of Bringing German Technicians to Israel Raised

Dr. Shinnar also touches upon the ticklish issue of bringing German workmen to Israel. The complex reparations machinery, he declares, can not be utilized fully without expert technical advice--and he points out that "the normal course of events will lead automatically to the employment of German technicians, but only in a future stage of development that must be reached gradually."

Other contributors to the special issue are Dr. Walter Eytan, director-general of the Israel Foreign Ministry; and Dr. Uri Naor, press attache for the Israel Purchasing Mission in this country. The special issue of "Das Parlament" quotes at length from recent addresses by Dr. Theodor Heuss, president of the Federal Republic; and Prof. Franz Boehm, former head of the German delegation which negotiated the reparations pact at The Hague.

The government is distributing the special "Israel" issue of the paper to about 35,000 teachers of history and religion in this country, in addition to the regular subscription list of political scientists and others interested in foreign affairs. Copies of the special issue of "Das Parlament" have also been furnished by the government for inclusion as an insert in the Allgemeine Wochenzeitung, Jewish weekly published in Dusseldorf.

BRITISH OFFICER QUILTS ARMY POST TO EXPOSE NAZI ATROCITIES

LONDON, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- One of the British Army's top legal officers resigned today rather than obey a government order to withdraw a book he wrote exposing atrocities committed by the Nazis against Jews.

Lord Russell, of Liverpool, wounded and decorated veteran of World Wars I and II, submitted his resignation as Assistant Judge Advocate General. The action came because of official opposition to his new book, "The Scourge of the Swastika," scheduled for publication in England August 19. Foreign Office quarters opposed the book because of fear that it might offend German military officers who are being urged by the Western powers to remilitarize Germany as a buffer against Communism.

This afternoon, a Foreign Office spokesman said: "The Foreign Office has never seen the book and has given no ruling on it. The action taken on the book has been taken entirely on the Lord Chancellor's responsibility. "However," the spokesman added, "the Lord Chancellor did first consult the Foreign Office as to its general practice in cases where a member or former member of the Foreign Office wished to publish a book of a controversial nature. The Lord Chancellor was then told by the Foreign Office that the practice was not to permit such publication."

Lord Russell, who served as a senior staff officer during World War II in France, North Africa and Italy, was said by friends to have been deeply moved by the torture inflicted on European Jewry by the Nazis. He drew on his experiences as a framer of allied military legal policy in World War II to shed new light on the crimes committed by Germany against the Jews. He participated as British Representative on Allied War Crimes tribunals, and wrote in the new book of his discoveries at Belsen and other Nazi death camps.

Efforts to censor the book in order to avoid offense to the sensitivity of ex-Nazis was described by the London Daily Express as a "monstrous act of censorship." The newspaper said the book is "strictly factual, a cold recital of dreadful historical events. It tells of the concentration camps at Belsen and Buchenwald, of the Warsaw Ghetto, of the massacres of Lidice and Oradour, and of the extermination of 6,000,000 Jews."

AMERICAN-ISRAELI PACT SPURRING TOURISM MAY NOT BE IMPLEMENTED

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Foreign aid experts here today stated that, despite the fact that United States representatives signed an agreement with the Israel Government in Tel Aviv on a project to develop tourism in Israel, this agreement may not be implemented.

They pointed out that the new Mutual Security Act, now pending before Congress, would prohibit the implementation of the pact. The new bill, they said, is written in such a way that U.S. funds will not be forthcoming to carry out the project envisaged. The new Act specifically states that the U.S. is not allowed to use funds for governments benefiting by the Act to encourage travel.

The project was expected to cost \$200,000 in American money, with a corresponding sum in Israeli pounds to be provided by the Israel Government. An Israel Government communique last week hailed the pact promoting tourism to Israel, and told of Israel's plans to cater to tourists and to accommodate them in the best possible way.

ISRAEL MINISTRY SEEKS ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO HELP NEW IMMIGRANTS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- The Ministry of Welfare today asked the government for an additional allotment of 1,000,000 Israeli pounds to help provide the minimal needs of approximately 50,000 newly-arrived immigrants now housed in the government's transitory camps for new arrivals.

According to the ministry's figures, the transitory camps cared for 27,515 persons in June who depended entirely on government relief allowances. Approximately 21,000 others had to be given supplementary relief by the government. The additional allocation, according to the ministry, would be expended in the camps for food needs only.

POALE AGUDAH QUIT AGUDAS ISRAEL; ESTABLISH SEPARATE PARTY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- The Poale Agudah, labor branch of the Orthodox Agudas Israel World Organization, today announced its independence by becoming a separate party. The group elected a five-member council headed by the famous Gerer Rebbe, and including other world-famous figures in Jewish Orthodox life.

(In London, the executive of the Poale Agudah of Great Britain approved the world Poale Agudah decision not to participate in the recent Agudas Israel World Congress in Jerusalem. The executive, welcoming the establishment of an Agudah Laborite rabbinical authority, expressed confidence that the Orthodox workers' movement would make progress independently of the Agudah organization.)

KNESSET MEMBER INSISTS ON FACING TRIAL; WANTS IMMUNITY WAIVED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- For the first time since the establishment of Israel's parliament, over six years ago, a member of parliament has been allowed to waive his parliamentary immunity.

A committee of the parliament today voted to allow Mapai deputy Shlomo Lavi to waive immunity. He had requested such permission several times and had refused to take his seat in parliament until his request was granted. Mr. Lavi recently ran over a man with his automobile, and the man died. He insists on standing trial on a charge of careless driving--for which he must waive his parliamentary immunity.

AMBASSADOR EBAN LEAVES FOR ISRAEL ON CONSULTATION TALKS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban left for Israel today to consult with top leaders of his government on current developments. During his absence, Reuven Shiloah, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Embassy, will act as Charge d'Affaires ad interim.

GERMAN TEACHER SENTENCED FOR DISSEMINATING ANTI-JEWISH LEAFLETS

DUSSELDORF, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Johann Strunk, 53, school teacher in nearby Bergisch-Gladbach, today was fined \$70 here by the local court which found him guilty of disseminating "viciously anti-Semitic" leaflets which, police said, had been produced by an American group.

The complainant against Strunk was Julius Dreifuss, chairman of the Jewish Communities of North Rhine province. Strunk himself said the leaflets had been sent to him from the United States, and showed that the place where the hate literature originated bore a return address of a post office box in the Yorkville section of New York. The leaflets were in the German language.

Strunk acknowledged to the court also that he himself was the author of a brochure entitled "Did Hitler Really Destroy Six Million Jews?" In that pamphlet, he declared that the existence of extermination camps under the Nazi regime was "a Jewish invention," and suggested that crimes against Jews had been committed by Jews disguised in the uniforms of the Nazi Storm troops.

JEWISH COMMITTEE CONDEMNS APPOINTMENT OF NEO-NAZI AS MINISTER

NEW YORK, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Sharp condemnation was voiced today by the American Jewish Committee on the appointment of Dr. Friedrich Middelhaue, a neo-Nazi in West Germany, as Minister of Economics in North Rhine Westphalia. The new cabinet member, who is also Deputy Minister President, is the head of the Free Democratic Party in North Rhine Westphalia, richest and most populous of the states of West Germany. The statement, issued by Irving M. Engel, AJC president, declared:

"Middelhaue's elevation to such an important government post is a step backward in Germany's efforts to rejoin the family of civilized nations. His appointment is particularly shocking in view of his frank use of anti-Semitism for political ends. This great admirer of 'the vitality of the Nazi Party' publicly announced, as recently as 1952, that in building his political party 'preference will be given to the recruitment of former Nazis.'

"While Middelhaue's own conduct makes him ineligible for any position of government trust, his close political association with Dr. Wolfgang Diewerge, who is Middelhaue's assistant, should have sent Middelhaue into permanent political oblivion. Diewerge is one of Germany's most infamous Jew-baiters, and has been for more than 20 years. A former SS Colonel, Diewerge was in charge of the radio department of Goebbels' Propaganda Ministry.

"The only way the German people can gain respect and trust in the free world is through positive actions demonstrating a genuine break with Nazi tradition. Pointing to public office neo-Nazis such as Middelhaue is a sure way of dissipating the respect and trust of the free world.

"The murderous regime of the Nazis left a moral stench that still reeks in the memories of all civilized human beings. Putting into public office men like Middelhaue, who admire and excuse the Nazi barbarities, is a blow to the cause of freedom to which, presumably, West Germany adheres. It also makes it more difficult for Germany to be accepted as an equal among the free nations of the world."

CHAPTER OF ZIONIST ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED IN BERLIN

BERLIN, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- The first local chapter of the newly-constituted Zionist Organization of Germany, re-established in West Germany five weeks ago, was officially launched here today. Sam Segal, director for Europe and North Africa of the Palestine Foundation Fund, addressed the initial meeting of the new chapter.

PRESS CENSURES REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIAL FOR ATTACKING J. T. A.

NEW YORK, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- An attack made upon the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by an official of the Republican National Committee has been severely condemned by the English-Jewish press. Newspaper editorials voiced support of the JTA, and approved the statement by Louis P. Rucker, its president. Mr. Rucker had denounced the attack as a "shocking assault on freedom of the press" and had described its implied threats against Jewish organizations as "unprecedented in American political affairs."

The attack was made on the JTA by Bernard Katzen, the Republican National Committee's consultant on Jewish affairs, who accused JTA of partisan reporting. His complaint was coupled with the warning that since the JTA enjoyed the support of Jewish organizations, the agency had an additional responsibility "lest its behavior be laid at the door of these organizations."

The Detroit Jewish News, in an editorial entitled "Erring Politician," said that Mr. Katzen had "committed worse than a blunder when he resorted to high pressure in seeking 'publicity' from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. That was the height of arrogance."

The editorial added that "we heartily support Mr. Rucker's position and we commend him for it. JTA owes an obligation to the communities it serves to present the facts - whether in the news stories or the exposes of our able Washington correspondent, Milton Friedman. An attempt to interfere with JTA's commendable position is sheer arrogance."

His Threats Condemned; Considered "Ill-Advised"

The American Jewish World of Minneapolis said that Mr. Katzen, in seeking to use "the cudgel of intimidation" on the JTA, "strikes a low blow." It added: "The threat is hardly veiled - that unless JTA makes its dispatches consistently conform to a pro-Administration point of view, rather than letting news developments speak for themselves, steps will be taken to fix the 'responsibility' on any organizations which give JTA financial assistance. This would be 'guilt by association' apparently."

"The press does not stand ready to yield its freedom, its right to unrestricted expression, to threats, as its history makes completely clear; and Mr. Katzen has been singularly ill-advised even to make the gesture. The dignified reply of JTA's president, Louis P. Rucker, constitutes an effective rejoinder to which we fully subscribe."

The American Hebrew, of New York, in an editorial entitled "An Ill-Advised Move," said that "although Mr. Katzen offered no bill of particulars in his letter, even if he were in a position to do so, we are impelled to say that he was extremely ill-advised in holding out the threat" that Jewish organizations supporting JTA would be held responsible for its actions.

"We would be the first to uphold Mr. Katzen's right to criticize any news agency or newspaper," the editorial declared. "Freedom of criticism is inherent in freedom of the press. But threats of punitive action against the objects of one's criticism are certainly not the road to preservation of a free press - an ideal which has been upheld eloquently by President Eisenhower and which we are sure Mr. Katzen shares with all of us."

The Los Angeles Jewish Voice, in a front-page signed column by its publisher, Samuel B. Gach, said that Mr. Katzen "wound up his complaint with a veiled threat against the news agency and an amateurish attempt to assault of freedom of the press."

The column added: "It is most important to remind our little Jewish dictator, attempting to earn his Republican oats at the expense of American traditionalism,

that the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, or the Jewish journals which carry its releases, do not make the news. JTA merely reports it. If Katzen or the Republican National Committee or the Administration is unhappy with the reaction to the policies they have authored, solution lies with them."

The Jewish Floridian, of Miami, in a column by Leo Mindlin, pointed out that Mr. Katzen stressed the Jewish community's need to identify itself more closely with the government's effort to contain international communism as well as with the need to consider this nation's safety primarily.

"Insidiously," the column declared, "the 'dual allegiance' charge levelled against Zionists is thus sounded with the implication that Jews care about neither, and his veiled threat against Jewish national organizations in the letter to Dr. Wise becomes reinforced." (Dr. George S. Wise is chairman of the JTA board, to whom Mr. Katzen originally addressed his comments.)

Some of the English-Jewish newspapers also criticized Mr. Katzen for his attack on Mr. Irving Engel, president of the American Jewish Committee, whom he charged with being "partisan" for criticizing the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act which is being opposed by all major Jewish and liberal organizations. Mr. Engel refuted the charge, emphasizing that the American Jewish Committee favors revision of the McCarran-Walter Act because, since its establishment, in 1906, the AJC has been keenly concerned with immigration legislation.

DUTCH PREMIER GREETES U.S. JEWRY ON TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- American Jewry was greeted today by Prime Minister Willem Drees of the Netherlands, on the occasion of the Tercentenary celebration of Jewish settlement in this country, which will start next month. In a statement released through the Netherlands Information Service, Dr. Drees said:

"The 300th anniversary of this community recalls historical associations of which both peoples may be justly proud. The first groups of Jews to arrive in Nieuw Amsterdam, though they came from Brazil, were of Dutch origin. They sought and found an atmosphere of religious tolerance in the Dutch community of Nieuw Amsterdam.

"Both the American and the Dutch people have continued in their history to strive for--and where necessary to fight for--freedom in matters of religion, not less than in other spheres of human activity. Less than 15 years ago the Dutch people were horrified and incensed at the persecution that befell the Jewish community of the Netherlands under the German occupation. The history of those days tells of the solidarity of the people with their suffering Jewish brethren."

MORITZ GOLDSCHMIDT, GERMAN-JEWISH LEADER, DIES; WAS 57

COLOGNE, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- More than 1,000 mourners attended the funeral services here for Moritz Goldschmidt, president of the local Jewish community. Goldschmidt's remains were brought here for interment from Italy, where he succumbed to a heart attack last week. He was 57.

Among the speakers at the funeral services was Dr. W. Schuetz, the newly-appointed Minister of Education of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. Mr. Goldschmidt represented the British zone in the Directorate of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and was a prominent figure in Jewish life. Last month, he was awarded the German Grand Cross of Merit.