



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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VOL. XXI No. 229 - 36th year

Monday, December 6, 1954

RAAB'S STATEMENT ON JEWISH CLAIMS EVOKES SURPRISE IN VIENNA

VIENNA, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- Austrian Government circles and Jewish leaders here expressed surprise today over the announcement in New York by Chancellor Julius Raab that the government will make new proposals for settlement of Jewish heirless property claims within two weeks of his return here from his American visit.

A government spokesman indicated that Chancellor Raab's announcement must have been a unilateral decision since the question was not discussed here prior to his departure for the United States. He said the reference to two weeks might be interpreted to mean that the Austrian Cabinet would discuss the problem within two weeks after Mr. Raab's return.

A Socialist spokesman characterized Mr. Raab's statement as "foggy and strange." He pointed out that the Socialists had not been informed of any new plans of Mr. Raab. The Socialists are the partners of Mr. Raab's People's Party in the Austrian Government coalition.

(Speaking on a nationwide television hook-up in the United States today, Chancellor Raab told youthful questioners that Austria did not owe Israel, or any other country, reparations because the Austrian Government was "liquidated" by Germany in 1938. "On the other hand," the Chancellor said, Austria wants to develop trade with Israel and thus aid the Israel economy." He said that Austria paid nothing in the way of restitution or reparations to any country.)

ISRAEL ASSURED BY U. S. ENVOY OF AMERICA'S "FULL FRIENDSHIP"

TEL AVIV, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- Israel was today assured of the "full friendship" of the United States, by Ambassador Edward B. Lawson, who also stressed that the U.S. was fully aware of Israel's great desire for peace with the Arab states.

Speaking at a dinner given in his honor at ZOA House here by the Israel-American Friendship League, Mr. Lawson noted that part of his mission in this country was to assure the Israel people of the U. S. Government's "earnest desire" to see Israel develop continuously as a partner of the free world. "There is no justification for fears" that Washington is reserving its consideration for other and larger countries, the Ambassador insisted.

"Israel is not an isolated state, but a member of the free world community, he asserted, and consideration is given Israel's position when American foreign policy is formulated. He expressed confidence that Israel would play an important role on the world scene.

GOLDMANN HAILS U.S. DECISION TO REVIEW MIDDLE EAST POLICY

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- The Eisenhower Administration's present review of its policy in the Middle East was welcomed as "urgent and long overdue," by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency, in an address here today. The Zionist leader expressed his hope that "this review will result in a policy contributing towards peace and stability in the Middle East," and pointed out that the "present policy, however well intentioned, far from stabilizing conditions, added to disorientation."

Dr. Goldmann addressed a seven-state regional conference of the American Zionist Council which speaks for all Zionist bodies in this country. His remarks were the first made by any Zionist leader on a message from Secretary of State John Foster Dulles delivered to the Weizmann Dinner in New York last Thursday by U.S. Solicitor General Simon E. Sobeloff.

Mr. Sobeloff had told the New York Assembly that "in accordance with the desires of the President, Secretary Dulles is actively engaged in the evaluation of our efforts in the Near East with the purpose of hastening progress towards these policy objectives." Dr. Goldmann pointed out that "this type of review was precisely what American friends of Israel have been demanding for many months."

"Concerned with the fate of American objectives in the Middle East and the security of the new State of Israel, we felt that American policy in recent months had been vacillating and inclined to convey the impression of predisposition toward one party in the area at the expense of the other party," Dr. Goldmann said.

"Mr. Sobeloff's statement on behalf of the Administration that we will not seek to increase our friendship with the Arabs at the expense of Israel any more than we would seek to gain favor with Israel at the expense of the Arabs, if fulfilled, would meet our request for an equitable policy," Dr. Goldmann continued. "Application is the only test of the validity of pledges and principles."

"We are not only awaiting clarification of this policy, but also its immediate application. Concentration on raising the economic standards of all countries in the Middle East and intense efforts toward restoring peace between Israel and the Arab states are prerequisites for securing that region of the globe for the free world," the Jewish Agency chairman declared.

Zionist Council Alerted to Anti-Israel Propaganda in U. S.

More than 500 Jewish leaders attended the all-day Eastern Seaboard regional conference, at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel. The American Zionist Council called the conference to alert its members to the growth of anti-Israel propaganda in the United States. The meeting also took up the Zionist role in Jewish education, the part to be played by American Jewish youth, and other activities of the organization.

Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the AZC, addressing today's conference, said: "The so-called U.S. policy of 'impartial friendship' in the Middle East is a failure. You just cannot be impartial between those who want peace and those who insist on perpetuating a war psychosis. And to propose, as our government has done, to supply arms to the Arab states is to reject not only logic and reason but the very core of American tradition of support for law against disorder."

Rabbi Mordecai Kirshblum, president of the Mizrachi Organization of America, charged that the Arab leaders have made the Arab refugees who fled from Israel "hostages and weapons in their unremitting campaign of hostility against the Jewish State." This conclusion is reinforced, he asserted, by the recent action of the Jordanian authorities in warning any Arab refugee who claimed the funds unblocked by Israel that he would be considered a "traitor" to the Arab cause.

BRITISH ENVOYS IN MIDDLE EAST MEET; DISCUSS ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM

LONDON, Dec 5. (JTA) -- The meeting of British envoys to all the Near Eastern states now taking place in Beirut, under the chairmanship of Foreign Office official Evelyn Shuckburgh, is viewed here as a prelude to a full-scale attempt by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden to mediate the Arab-Israel conflict and thus clear the way for a regional defense plant.

Some sources, however, believe that sentiment in the Arab countries is running too high against Israel to permit a full-scale settlement and that the best that can be done at this time is to ease some of the tension, establish a modus vivendi and leave the solution of stubborn problems for a later time.

ARABS BLAST MAIN WATERLINE IN NEGEV FOR FOURTH TIME

TEL AVIV, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- For the fourth time in three months the main waterline in the Negev was blasted last night by infiltrators from Jordan. In another incident, an Israeli soldier was wounded when a military patrol near Elath, on the Gulf of Akaba, was attacked.

Gen. E. L. M. Burns, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, issued a statement this week-end explaining to Jordanians why the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission had condemned Jordan for violating the armistice pact in an incident last week in which four Arab Legionnaires were killed and two others were wounded.

Gen. Burns pointed out that the Legionnaires were inside Israel territory when the Israeli military patrol in the area opened fire. He said that this was in technical breach of the armistice agreement despite the fact that the Arab Legion patrol had crossed the border apparently in pursuit of a Jordanian who had illegally crossed it first. The UN truce chief appealed to both sides to prevent "such a tragic occurrence in the future."

BEN GURION OFFICIATES AT DRILLING OF NEW OIL WELL IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- Former Premier David Ben Gurion officiated at the beginning of drilling operations for the fifth oil well in Israel this week-end. Mr. Ben Gurion pushed the button which started operation of the drill at a well being dug north of Sdeh Boker, Mr. Ben Gurion's home.

The well is being sunk by the Israel-American Oil Corporation, a subsidiary of the Husky Oil Company of Wyoming. Drilling operations will continue day and night, with a large crew of Israeli workmen, assisted by six American experts, working on three eight-hour shifts.

JEWISH CONGRESS DEPLORES DUPLICATION IN WORK FOR JEWS ABOARD

NEW YORK, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- Much of the work being done in behalf of the Jewish communities in other countries is being jeopardized by organizational anarchy, by needless duplication and confusion of effort, it was emphasized here today at the concluding session of a two-day meeting on world Jewish affairs and on Israel sponsored by the American Jewish Congress.

The parley called on the World Jewish Congress to take the lead in bringing about greater coordination among Jewish groups concerned with international affairs. Among the subjects discussed today were tensions in the Middle East, French policy in North Africa and the role of the World Jewish Congress on the American scene.

Last night, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the WJC, said that an "exaggerated optimism" had prevailed among the Jewish people since the Allied victory in World War II and the establishment of Israel. He advocated strengthening of the ties between Jewish communities all over the world and Israel, thus aiding educational and cultural development.

SURVEY SHOWS REDUCTION OF RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY IN U.S. ELECTIONS

NEW YORK, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- The United States has made "considerable progress in driving religious prejudice from the arena of respectable politics," the American Jewish Committee reported today in a survey of the 1954 elections. The survey said that the reduction of religious bigotry in the last election, in contrast to its prevalence in previous elections, "gives Americans of all faiths much reason for reassurance, little ground for smugness."

Based on an analysis of the 1954 elections in comparison with 1952 and previous years, the report drew the following conclusions:

1. Throughout increasingly greater areas of America, open appeals to religious prejudice are unfashionable and hence ineffective. Most candidates who resort to such tactics are held in check by party leaders who realize that more votes would be lost than gained.
2. Greater progress seems to have been made in reducing attacks involving religion than in those involving color. In the South, and in certain border states, the Supreme Court's decision against segregation drew from many candidates renewed affirmation of the intent to maintain "white supremacy."
3. Because blatant bigotry has been rejected by the American people, anti-minority bias has been forced to assume a "new look" in which innuendo, whispering campaigns, and veiled hints of the special influence of minority groups are prominent.
4. The increasing rejection of bigotry has led to another problem, that of fraudulent charges attributing anti-minority prejudice to a political opponent. Such charges, originating from the desire to corral votes, "raise the winds of divisiveness, split off one ethnic or religious group from others, and leave the community battered and bruised."

The AJC report attributed much of the recent progress to the declaration against bigotry in election campaigns, signed by the chairmen of both major parties in the 1952 campaign and again this year and "featured by hundreds of newspapers." The declaration, called upon both parties to "take all necessary measures to prevent any expression of racial or religious bias by their adherents and to condemn publicly and emphatically every occurrence thereof."

PROTECTION FOR JEWS IN NORTH AFRICA SOUGHT IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- A statement suggesting that France should be a co-guarantor, together with the two local governments, of any human rights conventions agreed upon for Tunisia and Morocco was presented here during the week-end to the State Department and to the French Ambassador in the United States by a delegation of the American Jewish Committee.

The delegation pointed out that the 220,000 Jews in Morocco are still classed as "dhimmis," with no rights as citizens. They live by sufferance as proteges of the Sultan, with no right to vote, obtain a passport, or even have their sworn oaths accepted in a Moroccan court of law. The delegation was composed of Irving M. Engel, AJC president; Jacob Blaustein, honorary president, and Dr. John Slawson, executive vice-president.

"The welfare of all North African people," the AJC memorandum declared, "is of vital concern to citizens and the Government of the United States, not alone for humanitarian reasons, but also because the stability of the entire Moslem world may well depend on the developments in North Africa in the immediate future."

"ACTION WEEK" FOR ISRAEL BONDS STARTED WITH SHARETT APPEAL

NEW YORK, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- Premier Moshe Sharett of Israel today launched "Action Week for Israel Bonds" in the New York area by telling more than 1,000 community and organizational leaders that Israel's economic defenses must be strengthened to offset the arming of the Arab states "which have no stake in the defense of democracy and which have stubbornly refused to make peace with us."

In an address which was piped in over a special telephone hook-up to 12 simultaneous breakfast meetings held in various parts of the city to open the intensive seven-day drive, Mr. Sharett asserted that "military security for Israel is not possible without investment capital--specifically Israel bonds." Warning that the arming of the Arabs "aggravates" the tense Middle East situation, the Premier declared:

"We are now in the throes of an economic war conducted against us by the Arab states with unabating vigor and venom. At the same time, we stand ceaselessly on guard along the frontiers against the ever-present danger of night attack and daylight robbery. The policy of supplying arms to these states--states which have no stake in the defense of democracy and which have stubbornly refused our offers of peace--aggravates the situation. In these circumstances, our drive to achieve economic independence acquires new importance and urgency."

Joining Mr. Sharett in opening the "Action Week" drive were Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon, who personally visited several of the meetings, and Dr. Israel Goldstein, who spoke over the telephone hook-up. Both expressed their misgivings over the arming of the Arabs. Senator Morse, declaring that the United States is "discriminating" against Israel, asserted that "here is one United States Senator who won't vote to trade the freedom of Israel for one barrel of Arab oil."

ORTHODOX RABBINATE CONDEMNS CHANGE IN JEWISH MARRIAGE LAW

NEW YORK, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- The Orthodox Rabbinate of America issued a statement this week-end condemning the recent action by the Conservative movement in altering the traditional Jewish marriage contract as representing "the gravest implications to the sanctity of Jewish life in America and a most disastrous disavowal of the principles of Jewish Law."

Joining in the statement were the Rabbinical Council of America, representing 600 Orthodox rabbis in the United States and Canada, and the Rabbinical Alliance of America, speaking in behalf of 300 more Orthodox rabbis. Endorsement of the condemnation came from the heads of all Jewish Orthodox theological seminaries and many prominent authorities on Jewish Law.

The joint statement of the rabbis called upon the Conservative movement to withdraw its proposal immediately in the name of Jewish unity. "Should they persist, however, the Orthodox Rabbinate hereby notifies their co-religionists of their religious decision that the use of this amended Kethubah is forbidden. No rabbi will officiate in any capacity in any ceremony where it is used. No acts or decisions of the projected Beth Din of the Conservative Rabbinate will be recognized as valid. A religious divorce granted by this Beth Din will not be honored. Should anyone remarry on the basis of such a divorce he may endanger his religious family status and that of his offspring," the statement warned.

NON-JEWS SEEK NAMING OF SQUARE IN AMSTERDAM AFTER SPINOZA

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- A number of leading non-Jews in this city addressed a request today to the city council to name a square in the newly-rebuilt center of the city for Baruch Spinoza, famed Dutch Jewish philosopher. The petition says that naming the street for Spinoza would be a fitting tribute to the 100,000 Dutch Jews deported and murdered by the Nazis.

JEWISH GROUPS IN SOUTH AFRICA SEND GREETINGS TO NEW PREMIER

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- The Board of South African Jewish Deputies and the Zionist Federation have sent messages of congratulations to Johannes G. Strijdom on the occasion of his appointment as Premier of South Africa.

"We pray that under your leadership our country may continue to prosper and all its people find contentment and happiness," the message declared. A message from the Zionists said: "May the Union, under your leadership, go from strength to strength and enjoy peace and prosperity."

FORMER LUTHERAN CHURCH IN STAMFORD DEDICATED AS REFORM SYNAGOGUE

STAMFORD, Conn., Dec. 5. (JTA) -- A former Lutheran Church building here which in recent months had been used jointly as a synagogue and as a church by the Protestant group, was formally dedicated as a Reform synagogue this week-end. Among the speakers at the dedication were a number of non-Jewish laymen and clergymen, including the minister of the Lutheran congregation.

The situation developed when early in the year a new Jewish congregation, Temple Sinai, purchased the Lutheran Church building, which was sold because the Protestant group was moving to a new church. However, the new church building was not completed until September, and the two groups used the building together, sharing all costs as well as the use, until the church was ready for occupancy.

JEWS IN PHILADELPHIA CELEBRATE AMERICAN JEWISH TRICENTENARY

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- A ceremony rededicating the Jewish community of Philadelphia to the service of mankind was held here this week-end in Congress Hall as part of Philadelphia's observance of the tricentenary of Jewish settlement in America.

The ceremony also marked the start of the 86th year of work of the Jewish Family Service of this city. Rev. Leon H. Elmaleh, Minister Emeritus of 200-year-old Congregation Mikveh Israel, the oldest Jewish congregation in this city, sounded a blast on the shofar to mark the beginning of the new century for American Jewry and the new year for the welfare agency. In Congress Hall George Washington and John Adams took the oath of office as the first and second Presidents, respectively, of the United States.

CONNECTICUT COURT SENTENCES ANTI-SEMITES FOR ATTACKING RIBICOFF

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 5. (JTA) -- John F. McCoy of Milford, Conn., was given a 30-day suspended jail sentence and a \$150 fine this week-end for sending scurrilous letters about Abraham Ribicoff, Governor-elect of Connecticut and first Jew to hold that office. McCoy pleaded guilty. The judge who pronounced sentence noted that if it were not for the fact that McCoy was 67, he would have been sent to serve his jail term.

TEMPLE EMANU-EL CONGREGATION IN N. Y. CELEBRATES 110TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, Dec. 5. (JTA) -- The 110th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of Temple Emanu-El was marked here tonight with a program of religious and musical activities. The program also marked the American Jewish Tricentenary.