



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

# DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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VOLUME XXI No. 233 - 36th year

Friday, December 10, 1954

## J.D.C. ADOPTS \$29,403,000 BUDGET FOR 1955; HONORS FOUNDERS

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The 40th annual meeting of the Joint Distribution Committee, attended by 500 Jewish leaders from all parts of the country, today adopted a budget of \$29,403,000 for JDC relief and reconstruction activities in 1955. The budget represents an increase of nearly \$4,000,000 over 1954 expenditures by the agency. Nearly one-half of it will be spent on JDC operations in Israel.

Edward M. M. Warburg, who was re-elected chairman of the JDC for the tenth successive year, addressing the delegates, said that JDC relief and other programs are today "more meaningful than ever." He called upon American Jewry for "continued support" of the task of aiding needy Jews throughout the world, and stressed the fact that not only are needs diminishing, but at this moment only the JDC is able to provide the aid which is vitally needed.

"This is true of the extraordinary work being done by JDC in North Africa, an area which threatens to become more and more dangerous in terms of the Jewish community there," he declared. "It is true of the heartwarming work of Malben, where the standards which JDC has established with this unique welfare program continue to be a glowing chapter of our generation's social engineering." He pointed out that in 40 years JDC aid has gone out to more than three-and-a-half million Jews in 72 countries.

## Harriman Hits American Restrictive Immigration Policy

Governor-elect Averell Harriman, addressing the Jewish leaders at the Fortieth Anniversary Founders' Dinner of the JDC, said that "the continuation of our restrictive immigration policy is not only morally evil; it is, from the point of view of our gaining friends in the battle for democracy, a stupid blunder." Mr. Harriman noted that the number of actual refugees and escapees who have been admitted to the United States under the Refugee Relief Act is "minuscule." "I can only hope that in its coming session the Congress of the United States will review and drastically revise the McCarran-Walter Act, and the Refugee Relief Act too," he said.

Mr. Harriman paid tribute to the Joint Distribution Committee as an organization which is "synonymous with constructive humanitarianism," and whose "name I have heard uttered with affection and almost with reverence by those who have been the beneficiaries of its activities. Your work over the past 40 years bears testimony to what democracy at its best can achieve."

Eighteen of JDC's founders, including leaders in government, labor and community activities, received citations from Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, a JDC vice-chairman, at the Founders' Dinner. Paul Baerwald, JDC honorary chairman and former JDC chairman and treasurer, who spoke on behalf of all of the founders honored at

the JDC dinner, declared that "the record of the JDC and the approval which is accorded to its work, give all of us the fullest confidence in its continued ability to render service.

"I think," Mr. Baerwald continued, "that I can sum up the reasons for JDC's coming into being, the reasons for its continued existence, the reasons for the extraordinary efforts which it has evoked and undertaken during the course of events--I can sum them up in three words: it was necessary. In the same way as I look back on my own association with JDC, during all of the events of wars, disasters and crises, I think that my part, too, was just doing the things that were necessary."

Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the JDC, told the guests at the dinner that "much still remains to be done" in JDC's efforts on behalf of needy and harassed Jews overseas. Noting that the 40-year period during which JDC has existed "has, for the Jews of the world, witnessed the greatest tragedy of their 4,000 years of tragic history," Mr. Leavitt said: "The JDC is the organized expression of the will, primarily of the American Jewish community, to help suffering, persecuted and underprivileged Jews to regain their dignity, their economic independence, their full religious and cultural lives."

#### Dr. Schwartz Asks "A Future Without Fear" for Needy Jews

Pointing out that "American Jewry has always understood the problems and the needs overseas," Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, JDC director-general on leave and UJA executive vice-chairman, called upon the American Jewish community to assess for itself, during the coming year, the total picture of needs both here and abroad. "I am certain," he said, "that out of such an analysis will come that support for JDC and for the United Jewish Appeal which will guarantee to all those in need of our aid not only survival but a future without fear."

Moses W. Beckelman, director-general for JDC overseas operations, told the delegates that among those urgently requiring JDC aid in 1955 will be: 1. Some 90,000 Jews in Moslem countries where, even if anti-Jewish outbreaks do not occur, JDC must extend its programs; 2. Some 40,000 persons in Israel, who must continue to receive institutional care and reconstruction aid, or who must be provided with vocational training and cultural, religious and educational assistance; 3. Some 30,000 in Europe, including thousands of disabled refugees and their dependents, to whom virtually all emigration opportunities have been barred.

Morris Laub, JDC assistant secretary, cited JDC's "partnership with other groups" in providing aid to the needy in many countries. "Partnership and cooperation have been traditional with JDC from its inception," he declared. Among the organizations which Mr. Laub cited was the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, from which JDC received some \$6,780,000 during 1954 for its programs on behalf of victims of Nazi persecution. Close working agreements have also been reached by JDC with international and local organizations in the fields of medical aid, educational assistance, emigration and economic reconstruction, he noted.

#### NATIONAL U. J. A. CONFERENCE OPENS TODAY; WILL SET 1955 GOAL

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal's annual national conference preparatory to its 1955 nationwide campaign opens tomorrow at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel with more than 1,200 delegates in attendance, representing principal cities throughout the United States.

The major task facing the conference is to determine the extent of aid American Jews can make available, through the 1955 UJA campaign, for immigrant resettlement in Israel, welfare and rehabilitation programs in behalf of distressed Jews in European and Moslem countries, and for the reception and absorption of newcomers to the United States.

### JEWISH REFUGEES REACH AGREEMENT WITH RESTITUTION ORGANIZATION

LONDON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain announced today the reaching of an agreement between the Association and the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization for the return to the JRSO of the Association's Council for Jews from Germany. The Association expressed the hope that the JRSO executive would ratify the pact.

The comprehensive social and cultural program of the Council cannot be fulfilled without substantial allocation of funds from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the Association said, adding that these programs are based entirely on the expectation of such funds.

"The allocation of sufficient funds from the Conference would enable the remnants of German Jewry to look properly after their aged ones and their brothers in distress," the Association declared. "It would also render possible the establishment of those cultural institutions which will present to posterity the spiritual heritage of German Jewry in a manner worthy of its history."

### GERMANY TO EXEMPT INDEMNIFICATION PAYMENTS FROM TAXES

BONN, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A complete exemption from taxes for indemnification payments made to Nazi victims has been approved by the Federal Council, upper house of the German Parliament, and will enter into effect January 1, 1955.

The measure, which had been introduced by the Social Democrats and opposed by Minister Fritz Schaeffer's Bonn Ministry of Finance, is only one of numerous tax exemptions and tax slashes voted for other groups. Until now, many types of compensation were subject to a "retroactive income tax" computed at a flat rate of 10 percent.

The Social Democrats argued that the state should not take back with one hand what it reluctantly paid out with the other, and their position was upheld by deputies of the Christian Democratic Union and of the Free Democratic Party.

The new tax exemption is concerned with certain types of payment under the Federal Indemnification Law for individual claimants. It does not affect pension payments to former civil servants, rabbis and communal officials, or funds derived from the restitution of identifiable property.

### GERMANS CRITICIZE FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT INDEMNIFICATION LAW

MUNICH, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Ninety-five percent of the Germans who wrote to the Bavarian Radio after listening to a broadcast over the station sharply criticizing the Federal Government for failing to implement indemnification legislation for Nazi victims approved of this criticism, it was indicated here today following an analysis of the mail reaction received by the station.

The broadcast, lasting 45 minutes, listed numerous instances of inconsiderate treatment of surviving victims of Nazi persecution and contrasted this with the preferential treatment given former Nazi civil servants. Forty percent of the listeners approving the criticism admitted in their letters that they had been members of the Nazi Party or sympathizers.

### GREECE RATIFIES UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST GENOCIDE

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Greece yesterday deposited its ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Genocide. This brings the number of states ratifying the document to 48.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT DOCTORS CALL OFF THEIR "SHORT DAY" STRIKE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Israel doctors working for the government last night called off their "short day" strike, agreeing to accept loans from the government this year and to hold off their demands for wage increases for another year.

The "short day," which forced the closing of departments in a number of municipal hospitals, was the institution of a seven-hour working day, rather than an outright refusal to work. Many hospitals restricted admissions to emergency cases during the period the "short day" was in effect.

FOUR ARAB YOUTHS SENTENCED IN ISRAEL FOR ESPIONAGE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Four Arab youths from the Egyptian-held Gaza strip have been sentenced to five-year terms as spies, a military spokesman revealed here last night. The four, each about 17 years of age, were convicted by an Israel military court sitting in Rehovoth.

The Arabs, who were apprehended inside Israel territory on their first day of spying, had been recruited from a high school in Gaza by an Egyptian intelligence agent who trained them for six days and then on Friday, their day off, sent them across the border to act as schoolboys who had mistakenly entered Israel territory. They carried Egyptian and English textbooks when they were apprehended.

When questioned by the military authorities, the four told conflicting stories. Finally, they broke down and confessed their espionage mission--to ferret out the defense lay-outs of Israel villages and Israel Army camps near the Gaza strip. They said that they were to have been paid six Egyptian pounds monthly for their work.

ISRAEL FINDS BUYING FROM TURKEY DIFFICULT; PRICES TOO HIGH

ISTANBUL, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- An Israel trade delegation which spent some weeks here trying to purchase Turkish products has left after a not too fruitful visit.

The Israelis found that Turkish prices for some products are higher than the world price and that some other items are in short supply and cannot be exported by the Turks. The Israelis indicated before they left that if prices come down to a level with world prices on some Turkish items Israel will purchase.

Since Israel is about \$1,000,000 ahead in current trade with Turkey, it must find more products to buy from the Turks if it hopes to sell them more. Under the present clearing arrangement, neither country may fall behind more than \$1,500,000 in an exchange of goods.

CORNERSTONE FOR NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH LAID IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A cornerstone for a new Church of the Annunciation was laid in Nazareth yesterday at a ceremony attended by Msgr. Alberto Gori, Roman Catholic Patriarch in Jerusalem, representatives of various other churches in the country and Dr. M. Goldin, representative of the Israel Ministry of Religion, who called the ceremony an important event for Israel.

The new church will be built on the site on which five previous churches have been built in the last 1,600 years, including one by the Romans and another by the Crusaders.

JEWISH CONFERENCE DISCUSSES LAW DECISIONS AGAINST BIGOTRY

ATLANTIC CITY, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Laws and court decisions barring discrimination because of religion, race or color are powerful factors in overcoming prejudiced beliefs, as well as discriminatory actions. This view was expressed by a number of speakers at the opening session here today of a three-day conference on the uses of law and legal action in the work of combatting anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry. The conference is under the auspices of the National Community Relations Advisory Council.

Irving Kane, chairman of the Reassessment Committee of the NCRAC, told the 75 social scientists, scholars, lawyers and Jewish leaders participating in the session that, because of the "ancient and poignant story of the long centuries in which we Jews were sometimes persecuted and at best tolerated, but never fully accepted as citizens, Jews have seen the need for organizations dedicated to the advancement of fuller equality for all, since we understand how all especially demarcated groups suffer when barriers are placed against the opportunities and rights of any."

Will Maslow, director of the Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress, in a presentation on "The Uses of Law in the Struggle for Equality," said that law not only tends to discourage certain forms of conduct by making it "unrespectable," but by changing behavior, in time also modifies attitudes, and does so "more effectively than a frontal assault on such attitudes."

Tracing major legislative and judicial victories in the long fight against discrimination, Mr. Maslow declared that beyond the direct results of laws and court decisions were many indirect gains. "Even if the legislatica does nothing but drive discriminatory practices underground, it serves a useful function," he said. "It is much more difficult for a personnel manager to discriminate against Jews when he has no ready means of determining whether an applicant is a Jew."

Mr. Maslow hailed the successes in litigations by Jewish community relations agencies on the issue of the separation of church and state, including released time practices, Bible-distribution in the public schools, etc. He stressed that no other corrective action was available in this area, except recourse to the courts. Presiding at today's session was Bernard H. Trager, NCRAC chairman. He told the parley that the purpose of the conference is to develop recommendations that will stand as guides to the national and local Jewish community relations agencies and to the committees of the NCRAC that continuously plan joint programs and coordinate the work of the agencies.

DR. GOLDMANN SAYS HUMAN RIGHTS IDEALS ADVANCE WORLD PEACE

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, declared today that the cause of peace and the happiness of man would be "greatly advanced" if the nations of the world would rededicate themselves to the ideals expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In a statement issued on Human Rights Day, which this year marks the sixth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Dr. Goldmann emphasized that nations could also serve the cause of peace by bringing their own laws and practices in harmony with the ideals set forth in the Declaration.

"Six years ago," Dr. Goldmann said, "the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Few documents conceived by man surpass this Declaration for ethical content or moral grandeur. In the best tradition of other historic bills of rights which man has fashioned in his tenacious struggle for the improvement of his lot, the Universal Declaration is a declaration of mankind's belief in the dignity of man and in the inviolability of his right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

LEADING U. S. LABOR LEADERS CALL FOR AMERICAN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Leading American labor leaders called for American support of Israel at a conference here last night of the West Coast Israel Histadrut Campaign. Some 1,500 delegates and guests attended the affair.

Among the speakers were: CIO president Walter P. Reuther; Michael J. Quill, president of the Transport Workers Union of America, who recently toured Israel as a guest of the Histadrut; Moshe Alon, Consul of Israel in Los Angeles, and Judge David Coleman, president of the Los Angeles Jewish Community Council. Special tribute was paid to David Tuviah, Mayor of Beersheba, who is visiting this city.

FINNISH PRESIDENT RECEIVES ISRAEL ENVOY; PRESENTED WITH BIBLE

HELSINKI, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Finnish President Passikivi received Israel Minister Dr. Abraham Nissan today. The Israel diplomat congratulated the President on the occasion of his 84th birthday.

Dr. Nissan also presented to the President a Bible in Hebrew and English, with a special parchment binding, which was a gift of President Ben Zvi. Dr. Nissan told President Passikivi that the gift was not only personal but was also meant to express the deep sympathy of the Israel people for the Finnish people.

DR. SHOSHKES HONORED; RECEIVES PRIZE FOR JEWISH BOOK ON TRAVEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Dr. Henry Shoshkes, noted Jewish author and member of the HIAS staff, was honored at a testimonial dinner here last night by Jewish writers on the occasion of his receiving a prize for travel literature established by the World Congress for Yiddish Culture.

The prize was awarded to Dr. Shoshkes for his latest book, "Through Unknown Countries," containing his impressions on Jewish life in various countries which he visited. Speakers at the dinner included Itzig Manger, noted Jewish poet; Dr. Leon I. Wulman, of the World OSE Union, Jacob Pat, of the Jewish Culture Congress, Dr. I. Schwarzbart, of the World Jewish Congress, and others.

BERL LOCKER ARRIVES IN MEXICO; ADDRESSES JEWISH MEETINGS

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Berl Locker, Jewish Agency co-chairman, who arrived here from South America, has addressed a number of mass meetings in this city. He was a featured speaker at a special meeting of the Institute for Cultural Exchange between Mexico and Israel.

AMSTERDAM MUNICIPALITY HONORS RETIRED JEWISH ACTRESS

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A retired Jewish actress today became the first woman ever to be given the "freedom of Amsterdam" as this city honored Henriette Davids, 68. Miss Davids, who has appeared in theatre productions in Holland and films in Hollywood, is the last surviving member of a famous Dutch show business family.

JEWISH CEMETERY DESECRATED IN GERMANY; ADOLESCENT ARRESTED

COBLENTZ, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The centuries-old and long unused Jewish cemetery in the woods near Hoehr-Grenzhausen, not far from here, was recently broken into and desecrated. The local police, in contrast with the usual practice in such cases, arrested a 15-year-old local youngster, who confessed that he had committed the deed "for sport." He was reprimanded by his school principal and, after a trial before the juvenile court, let off with an admonition.