



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

VOL. XXI No. 241 - 36th year

Wednesday, December 22, 1954

ISRAEL REQUESTS SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON "BAT GALIM" SEIZURE

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Israel today formally requested a meeting of the Security Council in connection with Egypt's blockade of the Suez Canal and detention of the Bat Galim and its crew of ten. The Council is expected to meet next Tuesday or Wednesday to consider Israel's request, according to Secretariat sources.

Abba S. Eban, Israel's permanent delegate to the United Nations, made the request in a letter to this month's president of the Council, Charles Malik of Lebanon. The letter reads:

"I have the honor to refer once more to my government's complaint against Egypt concerning the enforcement by that country of restrictions on the passage of ships trading with Israel through the Suez Canal.

"In view of the fact that the S. S. Bat Galim,* together with its crew and cargo, has not yet been released from unlawful detention by Egypt to proceed on its journey to Haifa through the Suez Canal, I have the honor, on instructions from my government, to request that a meeting of the Security Council be called at an early date in order that the matter may be considered further."

LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATS TOLD EGYPTIAN JEWS GET FAIR TRIAL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Dr. Jose Vicente Trujillo, chairman of the Ecuadorean delegation here and president of the caucus of the delegates of the 20 Latin American republics, declared today that he has the assurance of Dr. Abdel Meguid Ramadan, Egyptian delegate to the United Nations, that Egypt will give a fair and open trial to the Jews being tried in Egypt on charges of "Zionist spying."

Dr. Trujillo told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "I was glad to make this démarche on behalf of the Latin American delegates to the United Nations. It is true that we took this step not as formal representatives of our countries - since none of us had any instructions from our home governments. But we did take this action as 20 gentlemen, personally, as friends of the Ambassadors of both Israel and Egypt."

Dr. Trujillo further stated that he had told Dr. Ramadan "of our hope that in the spirit of Christmas and in the spirit of conciliation and moderation shown so frequently in the General Assembly's ninth session" Egypt would see to it that "justice prevails." Dr. Ramadan told Dr. Trujillo that the "trial is being held in public and that the defendants are receiving every right under Egyptian law."

Dr. Trujillo displayed a telegram from Dr. Moshe Tov, member of the Israel delegation at the UN, expressing the thanks of the Jewish organizations of Argentina for "this noble and humane action."

JEW COMMITS SUICIDE IN EGYPT; WAS ON TRIAL AS "ZIONIST SPY"

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- The Egyptian Embassy here today reported that one of the 13 Jews now on trial in Cairo as "Zionist spies" has committed suicide. The Egyptian report said that Max Bennett was found early today with his wrists slashed. Before his arrest he had been an employe of the Anglo-Egyptian Motor Company.

DULLES REVEALS HE DISCUSSED MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS WITH EDEN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and British Foreign Secretary Sir Anthony Eden discussed the problems of the Middle East during the Secretary's most recent trip to Europe, he revealed at a press conference here today.

Mr. Dulles explained that one evening, in the course of general social conversation between Sir Anthony and himself, the situation in the Middle East was mentioned as part of the world picture. Mr. Dulles refused today to elaborate any further on the discussion.

U.S. DIPLOMATS PARLEY DEFINES AMERICAN POLICY ON MIDDLE EAST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- The American policy in the Middle East was defined in a five-point statement issued by the United States Embassy in Syria following the conclusion there of the high-level conference of American diplomats stationed in Middle East countries, it was reported here today.

The statement calls for: 1. Complete and strict impartiality between the Arab states and Israel; 2. Friendship for all Near Eastern countries; 3. Support of these countries in their efforts to create strong and stable governments; 4. Standing behind the Tripartite Declaration of 1950 which guarantees the borders of the Middle Eastern states against aggression; 5. Support of the United Nations truce machinery in Palestine.

The statement, issued in Damascus, also expressed the United States' "sincere hopes" that the Arab states and Israel would reach agreement on the plan for regional development of the Jordan River which was proposed by Ambassador Eric Johnston, President Eisenhower's personal envoy to the Near East.

PHOSPHATE DEPOSITS FOUND IN NEGEV; IRON ORE TO BE TESTED IN GERMANY

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Rich phosphate deposits have been found in the vicinity of Ein Zahav, in the Negev, it was reported here today. The deposits, the richest so far discovered, have a 28 percent phosphate content. In the past Israel has paid out large sums of foreign currency for high grade phosphates, the price often reaching \$200 a ton.

The newspaper Al Hamishmar reported that a shipment of 600 tons of iron pyrites, an iron ore, would be sent to West Germany soon for tests to determine whether the ore is of sufficiently high grade for the extraction of iron. The ore was mined from a long cave in Upper Galilee, where iron ores of different qualities have been found.

ISRAEL ELECTRIC CORPORATION REORGANIZES ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- The officers of the Israel Electric Corporation, in which the Israel Government recently acquired a majority interest, today held their first meeting since the Israel Government took control.

The resignations of the old board of directors were accepted and a new board of 16 members was named. Lord Samuel, retiring chairman of the board, was granted an annual pension of 1,500 pounds sterling. A new chairman of the board of directors will be elected at the next meeting of the board.

ISRAEL TO PERMIT CHRISTIAN ARABS TO CROSS BORDER FOR CHRISTMAS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- The Israel Government completed arrangements today for more than 1,000 Christians, mostly Arabs, to cross the Israel-Jordan border into Jordan Friday for the celebration of the Christmas holiday. Similar arrangements have been made for Arabs who are members of the Greek Orthodox Church and will celebrate Christmas two weeks later.

The gates leading to and from the Old City and toward Bethlehem will be left open all through Friday night. More than 400 visitors from various parts of the world are also expected to take advantages of the special arrangements for pilgrims to move between the two countries. A party consisting of three Catholic bishops and 70 pilgrims from Argentina is expected to arrive here in time to pass through the gates.

AFGHAN ENVOY SEEKS TO PREVENT BIASED QUESTIONS ON ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Ambassador Mohammed Kabir Ludin of Afghanistan, presiding at a meeting here last night, sought to reject audience questions he considered biased against Israel. He chaired a meeting of the "American Friends of the Middle East" at which Dorothy Thompson, president of the organization, bitterly attacked Israel.

Miss Thompson told the audience, which consisted of government employes, Arab diplomats, and others, that Israel "simply robbed the Arabs of their properties" and that the evolution of Israel "was not compatible with what was humane or even democratic."

Although Miss Thompson made no secret of her anti-Zionist views, Ambassador Ludin sought to check anti-Israel questions from the audience. In one instance, an Arab asked Miss Thompson a question that referred to "the expansionist nature of the Jewish State" and alleged that Israel has designs on Jordanian territory. Ambassador Lubin sought to dismiss the question, saying he felt it contained pre-summations that would be ruled out in a court of law and that its spirit was "outside of the agenda of the evening." A considerable portion of the audience applauded.

Miss Thompson, nevertheless, volunteered to define her attitude toward Israel. She said that before visiting Israel she "was a Zionist." The reason for her attachment to Zionism, she said, was that she had been "touched by the tragedies" involving European Jewry under the Nazis. "Many years later," she said, "I have very much changed my opinion because I had been misled on basic assumptions."

Miss Thompson said that "unnatural partitions creating artificial states in hostile territory have a poor record of long life." When she lauded Mohammedanism as in some respects a superior faith to Judaism and Christianity, a middle-aged man arose and said, "this is an insult to the public." He walked out of the meeting.

ISRAEL AND BULGARIA SIGN FIRST TRADE AGREEMENT IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- The first trade agreement between Israel and Bulgaria was signed today at the Foreign Ministry here. The pact calls for an exchange of goods valued at \$1,500,000.

Israel will sell Bulgaria citrus fruit and other citrus products, razor blades, pharmaceuticals and super-phosphates. The Balkan state will export to Israel agricultural products, timber, penicillin, tobacco and asbestos.

POLAND'S FIRST MINISTER TO ISRAEL PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Siegfried Wollniak, Poland's first Minister to Israel, presented his credentials today to President Itzhak Ben Zvi at an audience here. The President expressed appreciation for the fact that Poland had permitted many Jews to join their families in Israel, and added the hope that more such Jewish families could be reunited in Israel.

ADENAUER CONDEMNS ANTI-SEMITISM IN GERMANY; WILL SUPPRESS IT

BONN, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- West German Chancellor Dr. Konrad Adenauer "sharply condemns anti-Semitic tendencies and will take all constitutional and political steps within his power against nationalist and anti-Jewish aberrations," an official in the Federal Chancellery has written to the Coordinating Council of the Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation in Germany.

The official, Dr. von Cramer, made the statement in acknowledging receipt of a resolution adopted last month at Seeheim, near Frankfurt, by the executive secretaries of the 20 Christian-Jewish Societies in Germany. The resolution had expressed profound concern at "the increasing frequency of nationalistic incidents and of the scandal of anti-Semitism."

GERMANY GETS CONTROL OF STORES OWNED BY JEWS WHO FLED TO U. S.

BONN, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- A major business deal, believed to involve \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000, was consummated this week to return to Germany control of the Emil Koester Company, operators of a chain of 19 German department stores, and which was owned by a family which fled to the United States in the 1930's to escape Nazi racial persecution.

Title to the Emil Koester Company was transferred to this country by the Michaels family, but during the war the holdings were taken over by the Alien Property Custodian which returned it to its owners after the war. Sales in the company's chain of stores is reported to have topped 200,000,000 Deutschmarks annually.

JEWSH DEPUTY IN GERMANY DROPS SUIT AGAINST POLITICAL OPPONENTS

FRANKFURT, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- An apology by two local Christian Democratic leaders in a nearby village, who had injected a gratuitous "Jewish issue" into last fall's Bundestag election campaign, ended a libel and slander suit brought against them by Jakob Altmaier, a Social Democrat and one of West Germany's two Jewish Bundestag deputies.

At Altenmittlau, in Altmaier's constituency of Hanau-Gelnhausen, the two local notables had interrupted a political meeting to drag in the Jewish descent of one-time Reich Finance Minister Hilferding and the controversial pedagogical theories advocated by a forgotten Jewish school official in Berlin 30 years ago. Their only purpose in doing so, they now asserted in the witness stand, was to show that "Social Democracy has always been alien to culture." When they retracted this allegation with apologies, Altmaier and the Social Democratic Party agreed to drop the case.

NAZI RESPONSIBLE FOR DEPORTATION OF JEWS IS WHITEWASHED

BONN, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- There are no grounds for initiating disciplinary proceedings against German Ambassador Werner von Barmen, the Bundestag was told here by top government officials. The Bundestag has been insisting for more than two years that the diplomat be suspended for instigating the deportation of East European Jews from Belgium, and for later lying about it under oath.

Early in the war, von Barmen was the representative of the Nazi Foreign Office on the staff of the German Military Commander in Belgium. When anti-Semitic measures were tentatively contemplated, he urged that all Jews originating in Eastern Europe be immediately deported to the gas chambers of Poland, but that those who had been citizens of Belgium for generations be spared for the time being, so as not to cause unrest among the native Belgian population. This plea has now been interpreted, by the West German Attorney General for Civil Service Disciplinary Matters, as "a serious effort to prevent, delay and restrict the deportations."

POSTCARDS ADVERTISING ANTI-SEMITIC BOOK BARRED FROM MAILS

DETROIT, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Postcards mailed by the "Nationalist Information Service" of Farmington, Mich., advertising an anti-Semitic book, have been ruled non-mailable under the Federal code by the Post Office Solicitor, it was disclosed this week.

The organization, headed by one Russell Roberts, whose past activities brought him mention in "The Troublemakers," used the cards to advertise a book dealing with Walter Winchell, noted columnist. The text of the card contained statements referring to Winchell as "the Jew stink bomb of the air" and as "the mouthpiece of the Sanhedrin."

U.J.A. RENEWED IN WINNIPEG FOR 1955; WAS FACING DISSOLUTION

WINNIPEG, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal has survived a threatening danger of dissolution because of financial difficulties and will be in operation again in 1955, officials announced today. The one year extension is subject to a review and re-evaluation of the UJA campaign results next year.

The renewal of the Appeal was made by the three partners--Jewish Welfare Fund, Zionist Organization Mid-West Region (for United Israel Appeal), and Canadian Jewish Congress, Western Region. It is based on making up "shortages" in this year's allocation of funds to the UIA and the Congress-UJRA, through increasing their proceeds by the same amounts in the 1955 campaign. The "re-evaluation" will come if next year's drive does not make up the shortages.

As explained by officials, the UJA this year has not been able to meet a Zionist Organization annual "minimum" of \$175,000 for United Israel Appeal. This was due to reduced campaign proceeds and increased costs of local institutions--which have first claim on UJA funds. Under the partnership arrangement of the UJA, it is automatically dissolved when the UIA does not get its \$175,000 minimum.

The partners, however, agreed to continue the UJA next year and add to the 1955 objective the amounts by which the UIA falls short on its \$175,000, and the Congress on its proportionate allocation (based on an agreed division of the proceeds after local allocations are made). "The community will thus decide in 1955 whether combined fund-raising will continue in Winnipeg," one of the UJA officials said.

DENVER REPORTS SHIFT IN JEWISH DEMANDS FOR PHILANTHROPIC AID

DENVER, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- An increasing demand for the assistance of the Jewish Family and Children's Service, with a shift in emphasis from new Americans to local residents and from economic problems to personal adjustment questions, was reported here at the annual meeting of the service.

Dr. Alfred M. Neumann, director of the service, also stressed the problems of aging people and warned that "this is a problem growing in scope as we go along." He urged immediate consideration of the establishment of a sheltered workshop for the aging that could also accommodate physically and emotionally handicapped people.

"While there is a steady decrease of economic problems, difficulties around personal adjustment, like marital problems, parent-child relationship, tend to be brought to our attention more frequently," Dr. Neumann reported.

He pointed out that in October, while the service had to deal with 24 economic problems, there were 58 situations dealing with personal adjustment-family relations, 30 health and maternity problems and 15 old age problems. Among others, the service also dealt with eight resettlement cases and 24 problems dealing with immigration and naturalization.

JEWISH CONGRESS LEADER TAKES ISSUE WITH CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- The report of the House Committee on Un-American Activities condemning anti-Semitic groups in this country was given a cool reception today by the American Jewish Congress at a meeting of its women's division. Judge Justine Wise Polier, addressing the meeting, said:

"To what extent the report is a sop thrown to decent Americans who were revolted by the previous slanders against leaders of the Protestant and Jewish clergy, I do not know. But I do know that no loyal American can derive any satisfaction from condemnation by a Congressional committee which has continued to deny fair hearings and fair procedures to men or groups who have been attacked."

"As a Jew, and as president of the women's division of the American Jewish Congress," Judge Polier asserted, "I state that we are as concerned with having the principles of freedom and fair procedure applied to anti-Semitic groups, as well as to the great leaders of the Jewish people whom this committee has defamed."

ISRAEL DIPLOMAT LEAVES WASHINGTON AFTER FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Dr. Ernst Lewin, Israel Embassy First Secretary in charge of economic affairs, who handled all grant-in-aid problems here since the inception of the U.S. program, was honored today on the eve of his departure for Israel.

Dr. Lewin is returning for reassignment after four years' service in Washington. Ambassador Abba Eban tendered a luncheon in Dr. Lewin's honor, at which he was lauded by the Ambassador as well as by leading American officials associated with economic affairs. Mr. Eban expressed appreciation to Dr. Lewin for his role in perfecting economic relations between the United States and Israel. Avraham Salmon, former Israel commercial attache in Sweden and Canada, has arrived in Washington to replace Dr. Lewin.

JERUSALEM COMMISSIONER NAMED ISRAEL CONSUL IN LOS ANGELES

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Dr. Abraham Biran has been named Israel consul general in Los Angeles, it was announced here last night. Dr. Biran is currently District Commissioner of Jerusalem.

Gideon Saguy, currently Second Secretary of the Israel Embassy in London, has been appointed vice-consul in Chicago. He assumes his new duties shortly after the turn of the year.

B'NAI JESHURUN CONGREGATION CELEBRATES 130TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Congregation B'nai Jeshurun here tonight celebrated its 130th anniversary year as the second oldest Jewish congregation in New York and the oldest congregation of Conservative Judaism in the United States.

Dr. Israel Goldstein, rabbi of the congregation, officially opened the anniversary festivities with a Chanukah ceremony at which he kindled the Torch of Freedom which had been brought from Israel to the United States and will be officially handed over to the Jewish community of America by the Government of Israel at the Chanukah Festival to be held in Madison Square Garden on Thursday.

\$1,000,000 WORTH OF ISRAEL BONDS SOLD IN MONTREAL

MONTREAL, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- More than \$1,000,000 worth of Israel development bonds have been sold here, it was announced today at a special Chanukah festival sponsored by the bond organization. The major speaker at the festival was Levi Eshkol, Israel Minister of Finance, who reviewed economic progress in the Jewish State.