

VOL. XXII No. 8 - 37th year

Wednesday, January 12, 1955

GERMANY TO PAY ABOUT \$90,000,000 ON JEWISH CLAIMS THIS YEAR

BONN, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- West Germany's Federal budget for 1955-56, submitted today by the Ministry of Finance to the parliament for approval, appropriates the equivalent of \$74,000,000 for Israel reparations, \$39,000,000 for indemnification, \$7,000,000 for restitution of identifiable property, \$2,900,000 for pensions to former German rabbis or communal officials, and \$48,000,000 for the victims of Nazi medical experiments. The total of these payments constitutes just under two percent of the Bonn Treasury's anticipated tax revenue.

When allowance is made for benefits accruing to non-Jewish victims of Nazism, the Federal Republic's 1955-56 budget provides an aggregate total of about \$90,000,000 for Jewish claims of all categories, not counting the \$14,000,000 in reparations funds that have already been spent. This constitutes an increase of \$20,000,000 over the current fiscal year.

More than \$14,000,000 out of the \$74,000,000 designated for reparations purposes, has been included in the new budget only as a bookkeeping device, to cover earlier Israel purchases for which no appropriation had previously been asked or made. For actual deliveries, only \$60,000,000 will be available in the forthcoming fiscal year.

The reparations agreement sets \$74,000,000 as the "normal" rate, but West Germany, in spite of her unprecedented economic boom, is for the second year in succession taking advantage of an escape clause permitting her, as a last resort if she should find herself in economic straits, to restrict payments to a minimum of \$60,000,000 per year.

First Payment for Nazi-Confiscated Jewish Property

The \$39,000,000 provided to furnish the federal treasury's share of disbursements under the Federal Indemnification Law for individual victims of Nazism, compares with but \$16,000,000 set aside for the same purpose in the current budget.

In giving its reasons for the higher figure, the Bonn Ministry of Finance expressed its belief that total expenditures for indemnification will run to \$950,000,000 which must, in accordance with the 1952 Hague Protocols, be defrayed by 1962. Therefore, one-tenth of this sum should be made available next year, but the Ministry further indicates that West Germany's constituent states will have to shoulder three-fifths of the indemnification cost, something to which the states have never agreed. The \$950,000,000 estimate is deemed too high by Jewish experts.

With respect to the restitution of Jewish property confiscated by the former German Reich, the Federal Republic of Germany has not so far paid out anything, even though it has taken over all Reich assets; thousands of Nazi victims are unable

to collect on the court judgments they have obtained. The \$7,000,000 allocation in the budget is predicated on the assumption that a "Reich Liability Law" will be adopted in 1955.

For the pensions of former German rabbis and congregational officials, \$1,800,000 is required annually. The extra \$1,000,000 allocated in this year's budget will be used for back payments prescribed by the law.

The program to compensate crippled victims of medical experiments conducted by Nazi "doctors," for which \$600,000 has been spent since 1951, is now drawing to a close. This year, \$48,000 has been provided so as to take care of belated applicants, mainly from Israel, France and Yugoslavia.

Regulation on Payments to Crippled Nazi Victims Enters into Force

BONN, Jan. 11, (JTA) -- Jews and other victims of Hitlerism who were crippled by Nazi maltreatment in concentration camps or jails and who have now filed individual claims for indemnification under the Federal Indemnification Law will now receive compensation under a regulation which entered into effect this month, it was announced here today.

In the more than a year and a half since the law was adopted, this is only the second implementation regulation to it that has been put on the books. It limits benefits to those who, as a direct result of Nazi persecution, suffered physical injuries or damage to their health so serious that their earning capacity has been lastingly reduced by more than 30 percent. Ailments and disorders are not, as a rule, considered Nazi-inflicted if they came to light more than six months after the liberation. The present state of health, no matter how bad, is not significant for a determination of the "casual relationship" between persecution and disability, the new regulation expressly states.

If a former concentration camp inmate qualifies under the restrictive definitions of the new regulation, he is entitled to medical costs. For residents of countries other than Germany, "necessary and adequate medical costs" may not exceed double the amount that would have to be expended for a like purpose in Germany. Travel to Germany in search of treatment is, however, authorized.

"Certified" invalids are further entitled to a pension as long as their income is less than \$35 a month; income above that level is to be deducted from the pension. A lump sum will be made available to cover the period between onset of the disability and the beginning of the pension payment.

Calculation of the pension is predicated on the hypothetical assumption that the crippled Nazi victim held a German civil service position in a grade comparable to his actual social and economic standing. The amount of the pension allowance is then computed as a percentage of what the German state would grant such an "equivalent" civil servant.

A floor has been established by setting the monthly pension minimum at \$24 where the impairment of earning capacity is between 30 and 40 percent, at \$30 where it is between 40 and 50 percent, and so on in increments of \$5 until a minimum pension of \$48 is reached in cases of 70-80 percent invalidity. Crippled Nazi victims with impairment of earning capacity in excess of 80 percent will receive \$59.50. The same amount will go to male invalids over 65 years of age or female invalids over 60 whose impairment, irrespective of cause, is classified as more than 50 percent.

U. S. INVITES ISRAEL TO SEND SCIENTISTS FOR ISOTOPE STUDY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Israel has already received an invitation from the United States Government for its scientists to participate in courses on isotope developments which will be held under official auspices in the U. S., it was learned here today. However, the invitation did not specify the number of scientists to come to the U. S. and the time when they should come.

(The Egyptian Embassy in Washington announced today that arrangements are now being completed for the establishment in Cairo of a radio-isotope research and training center in cooperation with the Department of State, Defense Department, and the Atomic Energy Commission as well as many American universities. Teams of Egyptian physicists, chemists, and doctors are being selected for study and training in radioactivity in the United States for periods ranging from six months to two years. The first group arrives in the United States January 15.)

DULLES QUERIED ON SYRIAN ADVICE TO USE U. S. ARMS AGAINST ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Chairman Emanuel Celler of the House Judiciary Committee today solicited the views of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles on a recent statement by Syrian Premier Faris el Khoury urging Arabs to "take American arms and attack Israel."

Rep. Celler quoted a Jewish Telegraphic Agency report in his communication to Mr. Dulles. He said that the American arms shipments to Iraq endangered Near Eastern peace. "While it is true that our present program does not call for the shipment of arms to Syria, there is no guarantee that arms sent to Iraq would not find their way to Syria if there were a renewal of hostilities," he pointed out.

The Secretary was urged to have U. S. diplomats make representations in Damascus regarding the question of the propriety of the Syrian Premier's statement.

U. N. TO SEND 32 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EXPERTS TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- A total of 32 foreign experts will be assigned to Israel in 1955 and 39 Israelis will be sent abroad for further study or for assisting foreign states under the United Nations technical assistance program, Dr. Hart Shaaf, resident representative of the UN Technical Assistance Administration, announced here today.

He reported that private firms and undertakings, as well as government bureaus, will be able to secure the services of foreign technicians and experts who come to Israel. Their requests for the services of such personnel will have to be approved by the Ministry which covers the field of the particular expert, he said.

Dr. Shaaf praised Israel for her "expert and exact knowledge" of her needs. He noted that Israel's requests for foreign technicians are so carefully drawn and categorized that it is possible for the UN technical assistance program to help Israel with ease and also makes the work of the experts more productive.

U. S. AUTHORIZES CRUDE OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FOR ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- The Foreign Operations Administration today announced the authorization of \$1,500,000 worth of crude oil and petroleum products for Israel. The commodities will be delivered by September, 1955, and come from the United States, Iran, and Italy.

EBAN STRESSES "ESSENTIAL KINSHIP" OF ISRAEL AND CHRISTIAN WORLD

SOUTH BEND, Ind., Jan. 11. (JTA) -- The "essential kinship" of Israel and the Christian world was stressed today by Israel Ambassador Abba Eban in an address before the student body and faculty of Notre Dame University. This was the first time that an official representative of the State of Israel addressed a major Roman Catholic audience in the United States.

"An understanding of the spirit of the Christian world ranks high among Israel's chief aspirations," Mr. Eban said. "We are fully aware that many causes and assets sacred to Christianity lie within our control, and demand our most vigilant reverence. This consideration has led us constantly in recent years to proclaim our readiness to place under international influence the Holy Places in Jerusalem which are the cradle and inspiration of the Christian faith."

The Israel Ambassador reviewed the considerations which have caused the Governments of the United States and of Israel to cooperate within the United Nations on behalf of solutions which respect both the sovereignty and secular independence of Jerusalem's population, and the rights of the Christian world to see its Holy Places kept immune from turbulence. "I am satisfied that this attitude is now shared by a majority of the members of the United Nations," he declared.

Sees Catholic World Interested in Israel's Development

Expressing satisfaction with the fact that he had been invited to speak before "this Catholic sanctuary," Mr. Eban said that he considers the invitation a reflection of the conviction of the audience that "the unfolding of Israel's new career as a nation is a matter of moment and concern to the Christian world."

"The great issue in this generation is drawn, not between Christianity and Judaism, or between Israel and the Christian nations," he stated. "The frontier lies rather between those who assert and those who deny the supremacy of faith and of freedom. You and we occupy different areas of tradition, experience and outlook; but we occupy them on the same side of that fateful demarcation. Our differences are not insignificant, and we should not be disposed to obscure them. It may well be that those elements of our personality which are separate and distinctive are precisely the most creative elements in our contribution to the common cause."

"The rise of Israel," he continued, "is a victory of the human spirit, a triumph of international integrity, a burden removed from the universal conscience, the addition of a new voice to the symphony of human freedom. This is then a victory for the Christian struggle as well as being a direct salvation for the Jewish people."

Mr. Eban noted that the Biblical struggle of the Jewish people for freedom had inspired and consoled many subsequent movements of national independence, including that of the United States. When Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson were consulted on the emblem of the future American union they suggested that the seal of the United States of America should represent the children of Israel fleeing across the parted waters of the Dead Sea on their way to freedom.

In many material fields Israel can never compete with the might and influence of the great continental or imperial powers, Mr. Eban pointed out. "The only domain in which we are free to soar to the highest peaks available to any nation are those of scientific, cultural and spiritual progress. However pressing are Israel's pre-occupations with physical security and economic welfare, the challenge of cultural achievement cannot be set aside."

The Ambassador expressed appreciation of the "warm praise" uttered by Magr. Antonio Vergani, representative of the Latin Patriarch in Israel, by the Very Rev. Father Brunet, and by visiting cardinals and prelates, at the efforts of the Israel Government to facilitate the movement of travellers and pilgrims and repairing war damages inflicted on some of the buildings and property of the Catholic Church in Israel.

HAMMER NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN-ISRAELI SHIPPING COMPANY

NEW YORK, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- The election of Gottlieb Hammer, executive director of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, as president of the American Israeli Shipping Company, Inc., was announced today in a cable received from the Zim-Israel Navigation Company of Haifa.

The American Israeli Shipping Company is the American representative of Zim, Israel's largest shipping company and operators of the Israel America Line. This regularly scheduled Israel-flag service between Israel and North America was established in 1949, and offers complete facilities for the transportation of passengers and cargo.

Mr. Hammer will retain his present responsibilities at the Jewish Agency. His assumption of the presidency of the American Israeli Shipping Company, he pointed out, reflects the continuing interest of the Jewish Agency in the Zim-Israel Navigation Company of which it was one of the founders and in which it is a major stockholder.

A senior officer of the Jewish Agency for the last 15 years, Mr. Hammer is a native of Brooklyn and was educated at Boys High School and Long Island University. After varied experience in banking, insurance and accounting, he served as assistant director of the Palestine Pavilion at the New York World's Fair in 1939-40 and subsequently as comptroller of the Jewish National Fund before joining the Jewish Agency in 1941. He is a director of a number of companies and public institutions and is a member of the Bankers Club of New York.

U. S. HELPS TO ESTABLISH VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER IN NEGEV

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- The first of six vocational training centers to provide skilled personnel needed in various industries in Israel opened in Beersheba today. The training centers are being set up with the aid of American technical assistance.

Present at the ceremony in Beersheba were Labor Minister Golda Myerson and American Ambassador Edward B. Lawson. Mr. Lawson told the assemblage that this center will symbolize the combined effort of the two nations working together for common objectives. The first class in the new center will contain 150 students.

HAIFA TECHNION NAMES BUILDING AFTER AMERICAN DONORS

HAIFA, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- The new aeronautical engineering building at the Israel Institute of Technology here will be named the Bender Laboratory in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bender of Breckenridge, Texas, Gen. Yaacov Dori, president of the Technion announced.

The C. M. Bender Educational Trust of Houston, Texas, contributed \$70,000 toward the construction costs of the building. Mr. Bender, who recently visited Israel, said that he believed that the Technion is "playing one of the leading roles" in guaranteeing Israel a secure and prosperous future.

ISRAEL YOUTHS ARRIVE IN SWITZERLAND TO STUDY FARMING METHODS

GENEVA, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- A group of 24 Israel youths arrived here today to learn Swiss farming methods. They will be sent to various farms in all parts of the country by the national Swiss farming association, which has arranged their reception and stay in the country.