

JTA

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. XXII No. 9 - 37th year

Thursday, January 13, 1955

CABINET CRISIS LOOMS IN ISRAEL; EFFORTS MADE TO AVERT IT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Efforts to avert a Cabinet crisis were made here today following serious differences of opinion over the budget which developed between Laborites and members of the General Zionist Party within the Cabinet.

The General Zionists insisted that the budget prepared by Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, a Laborite, for submission to Parliament, be cut by 15,000,000 pounds. Otherwise, they threatened to vote against it. Such an opposition vote would mean an immediate Cabinet crisis.

Leaders of the Progressive Party and of the Mizrahi Laborites, seeking to avert such a crisis, were busy today trying to work out a compromise acceptable to both sides. However, Cabinet members of both parties indicated that they will not accept any compromise. Nevertheless, Finance Minister Eshkol was optimistic over the possibility that a solution will be found.

The rift in the Cabinet developed yesterday when the members of the government had to adopt a final decision on the budget before submitting it to the Parliament for a vote. The Cabinet meeting was adjourned until next week to enable the Ministers to consult their respective parties.

The Knesset saw the first rift within the government coalition recorded in a vote today when the General Zionist voted with the religious parties against the Mapai on a matter dealing with education. All parties of the left supported the Mapai.

Motion for Recognition of Red China Shelved by Knesset

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament put off a demand today by Communists and the leftist Achdut Avoda Party for an immediate debate on a motion to have Israel recognize Communist China.

Premier Moshe Sharett told the Knesset that he was "surprised" that the demand for a debate had come up now. He noted that an Israel trade delegation was shortly due to leave for China, at the invitation of the Peiping regime. When the delegation returns, and in the light of its experiences in China, "we will discuss ways and means of strengthening relations," he promised.

Interest in the Knesset today was centered on the forthcoming debate in the United Nations Security Council concerning the fate of the Israel vessel "Bat Galim" seized by Egypt, and the Egyptian blockade of the Suez Canal against Israel. The attitude taken by the American and British delegates during the discussion at the Council last week has provoked much satisfaction here.

ISRAEL CONVOY PERMITTED TO PASS TO MT. SCOPUS; INSPECTED BY U.N.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The delayed Israel supply convoy to the guards atop Mt. Scopus today passed through the Arab Legion lines, after a lengthy inspection by United Nations observers.

The UN observers spent four hours rummaging through the supply trucks, while Arab Legion officers looked on. At one point, an Arab demanded that a tank of gas be opened for inspection. After a lengthy explanation of the fact that the gas, intended for cooking purposes, would escape if the tank were opened, the Arab finally yielded.

Representatives of the leftist Achduth Avoda and the rightist Herut today demanded a debate in Parliament on the "surrender" to the demands of the Legion. This referred to Israel agreement to UN observers searching the convoys, at the demand of the Arabs. Premier Moshe Sharett took the floor to note that searches of supply convoys had occurred before, and to ask that the critics of the government not inflate small matters into major issues at a time when the country faced important problems. The deputies then consigned the questions to committee.

AMERICAN ZIONISTS PLEASED WITH U.S. STAND ON SUEZ BLOCKADE ISSUE

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- American Zionist leaders today expressed their "warm appreciation" to Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., head of the United States delegation to the United Nations, for his recent statement in the UN Security Council on the question of the Egyptian blockade of the Suez Canal against Israel and the seizure by Egypt of the Israel vessel "Bat Galim." The Security Council will resume discussion of this issue tomorrow.

The letter expressing the sentiment of the American Zionist movement was sent to Mr. Lodge by Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, chairman of the American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs. It congratulated him on "the firm and positive position" taken by the U.S. delegation that "Egyptian restrictions on ships passing through the Suez Canal, whether bound to or from Israel, or whether flying the Israeli or some other flag, are inconsistent with the spirit and intent of the Egyptian-Israeli General Armistice Agreement, contrary to the Security Council resolution of September 1, 1951, and a retrogression from the stated objectives both sides committed themselves to in signing the armistice agreement."

Pointing out that "this stand is of particular importance at this time, in view of Egypt's historic obligations to the international community as the custodian of the Canal and also pursuant to the recent Anglo-Egyptian agreement," Rabbi Bernstein said in his letter: "We share your view that one had a right to expect in the United Nations that the years following the cessation of armed conflict would have shown greater progress towards the establishment of general peace between Egypt and Israel."

"Accordingly, we hope that our delegation's position, insisting on Egypt's compliance, will promote an early settlement of the immediate issue in question. The amicable solution of this problem would indeed give cause for optimism for a reduction of the tensions now existing between Egypt and Israel. "It is gratifying to have your reaffirmation that the United States intends to continue to use its best efforts in the Security Council to achieve this end."

EDEN TO VISIT EGYPT; WILL TOUCH ON ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM

LONDON, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden will see Egyptian Premier Nasser and Foreign Minister Fawzi during his overnight stay in Cairo next month, it was stated in official circles here today. These same circles stressed that although the occasion under which the British diplomat will meet the Egyptian dictator is not such as would permit a full-scale discussion of Israel-Arab issues, "it would be quite impossible in any discussion of local affairs for them not to mention relations with Israel."

GERMAN-ISRAEL MIXED COMMISSION MEETS ON REPARATIONS

BONN, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The German-Israel mixed reparations commission began meeting here today to work out the schedule of goods and services that West Germany will furnish Israel during the next fiscal year under the terms of their reparations agreement. This meeting is held annually.

The present schedule of deliveries covers the period through March 31, 1955. No major change is expected in the agreement for the following year. The mixed commission consists of 12 experts from each country. They are divided into two subcommittees. The Israel delegation is headed by Dr. F. Shinnar, head of the Israel purchasing mission in this country.

SWEDEN STARTS TALKS WITH RUSSIA FOR WALLENBERG'S RELEASE

PARIS, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Talks have been held between Swedish and Soviet authorities for the release of Raoul Wallenberg, "The Swedish Hero of the Budapest Ghetto," who is credited with having saved the lives of many Jews during the Nazi occupation of Hungary, it was reported here today.

Mr. Wallenberg, Jewish businessman of Swedish nationality, was in Budapest when the Second World War broke out and became semi-officially attached to the Swedish legation there. During the war, it was reported, he did much to protect Jews in the Hungarian capital and managed to rescue a number of them.

When the Russians marched into the city in January, 1945, Mr. Wallenberg represented himself to the Soviet authorities as Swedish Charge d'Affaires in liberated Hungary. Shortly afterwards he disappeared, and has not been seen since. It is believed that he is being held by the Soviets on charges of being a Nazi spy.

ONLY TWO SYNAGOGUES OPEN IN VILNA; ONE HAS 1,500 WORSHIPPERS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- There are only two synagogues still open in Vilna, a 66-year-old immigrant from that Soviet city, declared here today upon his arrival from Vilna via Vienna and Italy.

The immigrant, H. Kempe, came in a party that included ten other Jews from Budapest. He reported that the larger of the two synagogues has 1,500 men and women worshippers on all Jewish holidays and several minyans daily.

CASABLANCA JEWISH BANK AIDS ARTISANS; SUPPORTED BY JDC AND JCA

CASABLANCA, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Nearly 10,000,000 francs in 242 small loans have been approved for Jewish craftsmen here by the Jewish Loan Bank since the bank's establishment in July, 1953, it was reported today at the annual meeting of the bank's officers.

The bank was established by the Joint Distribution Committee, Jewish Colonization Association and local Jewish leaders to aid Jewish artisans set themselves up in business on a sound basis. At today's meeting, J. R. Benazerof was re-elected chairman of the bank. Hope was expressed at the meeting that the JDC and JCA would continue their support of the bank.

STOCKHOLM JEWISH COMMUNITY RAISES TAXES TO MEET ITS BUDGET

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The special income tax levied on members of the Jewish community of this city to meet the budgets of communal institutions has been increased from 2.2 percent to 2.7 percent, the community announced today. The tax will bring in sufficient income to cover a budget of 810,000 Swedish crowns for 1955, an increase of 51,000 crowns over last year. The largest part of the budget is covered by this assessment, the remainder coming from interest on investments and other income.

EISENHOWER SAYS HE REACHED NO PERSONAL DECISION ON LADEJINSKY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower said today that he has reached no personal decision on the loyalty of government economist Wolf Ladejinsky and that Harold Stassen, Foreign Operations Administrator, must take full responsibility for the eventual outcome of the case involving the Russian-born Jew who was the victim of anti-Semitism in one aspect of the affair.

Mr. Stassen has appointed Mr. Ladejinsky to an important post in the FOA despite the fact that Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson still regards him as a security risk. Mr. Eisenhower described the Ladejinsky case as one where honest men were reaching different decisions on a difficult matter. He said he backs Mr. Stassen but that the latter must take the responsibility if his judgment proves wrong. The President emphasized that he personally had not reached a judgment on the case.

U. N. BODY DISCUSSES PROJECTED STUDY OF BIAS IN EMPLOYMENT

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities today started discussion of a memorandum from the Secretary General concerning a study of discrimination in employment, to be undertaken by the International Labor Organization for the subcommission.

The group heard a report from a representative of the ILO that preparatory work had already been done on the project, but that a deeper study was needed before it would be possible to provide guidance for methods of eradicating such discrimination.

Richard Hiscocks, British delegate, pointed out at today's session that governments have no reason to fear that complaints from private sources or non-governmental organizations will be published or dealt with by the United Nations until the governments affected by the complaints have had an opportunity to comment on them.

During a discussion of a study on discrimination in education, prepared by special rapporteur Charles D. Ammoun of Lebanon, Mr. Hiscocks noted that all such complaints were forwarded to the governments concerned for comment, and that therefore there was no basis for any government to take exception to the Ammoun report. He also noted that after complaints had been considered, the decisions which resulted would not be in the nature of "judgments" but rather of general recommendations.

FRANCE SIGNS UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON STATELESS PERSONS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 12. (JTA) -- France today became the 20th country to sign the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. Henri Hoppenot, permanent representative of France to the United Nations, signed for his government at a brief ceremony this morning in the office of Constantin Stavropoulos, legal counsel to the UN.

The convention - drafted at United Nations headquarters by a conference of plenipotentiaries which met September 1954 - accords an internationally recognized juridical status to an individual who has no link of nationality with any state and only on this ground. It differs from the refugee convention in that the latter benefits only those stateless persons who also belong to certain well-defined categories of refugees.

This convention will come into force on the 90th day following the day of deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification or accession. Those countries which have previously signed the convention are: Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Federal Republic of Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Lichtenstein, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Vatican City. None has as yet ratified or acceded to the convention.

"RAMBAM YEAR" STARTS TODAY; MARKS 750TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- "Rambam Year," which marks the 750th anniversary of the death of Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon, the medieval Jewish philosopher and scientist also known as Maimonides, will be opened here tomorrow at the Rabbi Kook Institute.

Maimonides, whose initials make up the name Rambam under which he is known in literature, was born in 1135 in Cordoba, Spain, and died in 1204 in Egypt. A few years after his death, his remains were transferred from Egypt to Palestine and reinterred near Tiberias, where his tomb has remained a shrine for generations of Jews.

Present at the ceremonies tomorrow will be President Itzhak Ben Zvi, Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog, members of the Cabinet, scientists and cultural leaders. A special pilgrimage will be made to the tomb of the Rambam in Tiberias Sunday.

The observance of the anniversary is sponsored jointly by the Rabbi Kook Institute, a religious educational center, and the Ministry of Religion. The latter is appropriating 80,000 pounds for the observance of the anniversary, 50,000 pounds of which has been set aside for the rebuilding of the tomb in which the remains of the world-famed Jewish thinker lie.

The national observance will be started at Tiberias Sunday night when the greatest experts on the Rambam will lecture on the significance of his work in the fields of theology, philosophy and science. It is expected that this lecture will be succeeded by some 2,600 other talks on the Rambam during the commemorative year. To further stimulate interest in the Rambam, the Ministry of Religion has offered special prizes for outstanding work by students of the Rambam.

U.S. TO DISSEMINATE MATERIAL ON AMERICAN JEWRY IN 77 COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The United States Information Agency made known today that it is preparing a special packet devoted to the 300th anniversary of American Jewry to be sent out to information offices abroad in 77 countries.

The packets will contain President Eisenhower's Tercentenary address and about 40 other items pertaining to the current celebration. Some of the material will be distributed to the foreign press for re-publication.

JEWISH PROTEST HALTS TEACHING OF RELIGION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MONTREAL, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Protests by Jews and others against religious education in the public schools of Port Colborne, Ontario, has resulted in action by the local authorities to halt such teaching, the Canadian Jewish Congress reported here.

In the face of a move to bring religious education into the schools, the school authorities decided to wait for reaction from the public. When it became obvious that unanimity on religious education would not be achieved, the local school board requested of the provincial authorities permission not to teach religion in the schools.

70 JEWISH YOUTHS LEAVE ARGENTINE FOR STUDY IN ISRAEL

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- A group of 70 Argentine youths, all either university students or recent university graduates, left today for Israel where they will take a special course conducted by the Jewish Agency's youth department. This is the third group of young Argentine Jews to receive this type of training in Israel. The course is similar to those organized by the Agency for Jews from English-speaking countries.

J. N. F. NATIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON IN MARCH

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The three-day national conference of the Jewish National Fund of America, originally scheduled to open February 11, will open in Washington, at the Willard Hotel, on March 11, according to an announcement made today by Dr. Harris J. Levine, president of the Jewish National Fund of America.

The change was necessary in order to make it possible for highly placed persons in the State of Israel to attend the conference as guest speakers. The conference will discuss problems of land reclamation and land development in Israel, especially as they affect the security of the country, with special emphasis on the work-villages, which, established along the borders, are not only increasing the agricultural output, but are also the guardians of the frontiers against Arab attacks.

A call for the conference has been issued to all the constituent organizations and JNF Councils, as well as to individual JNF leaders throughout the country. About 1,000 delegates from all over the country are expected to attend the gathering which, in addition to plenary sessions, will also hold a number of panels devoted to special problems of the Jewish National Fund both in Israel and in the United States.

In his call for the conference, Dr. Levine said: "The time has come for us not only to review our work which has contributed so much to the founding of the State of Israel, but also to plan for the future consolidation and security of the Jewish State. The mobilization of American Jewry's resources on behalf of a land reclamation and land development program in Israel was never as pressing and of such decisive moment as it is today when the very future and existence of the Jewish State depend on a strong chain of Jewish settlements along the borders and an agricultural self-sufficiency that will guarantee the food supplies of a growing Jewish population. The Jewish National Fund, which throughout all vicissitudes, has been one of the mainstays of the Yishuv, must now rally to the support of the State of Israel in its critical hour."

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT LAUDED FOR INTEREST IN ISRAEL'S WELFARE

MONTREAL, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The deep interest of the Canadian Government in the welfare of the people of Israel was lauded here last night by Leon D. Crestohl, M. P., at a national convention of the Zionist Men's Association.

Mr. Crestohl paid particular tribute to T. McDermot, Canada's Ambassador to Israel, and Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, United Nations truce supervisor in Palestine. He said that their activities had added considerably to the prestige which Canadians--Jews and non-Jew alike--enjoy in Israel. Nathan Simpson of this city was elected president of the association to succeed Milton Klein.

HILLEL FOUNDATION FOR BRITAIN AND IRELAND LAUNCHED IN LONDON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The official launching of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation for Great Britain and Ireland took place at a dinner in London attended by 500 notables of British academic and religious and community life, according to information received today by B'nai B'rith headquarters here.

The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation in England, like its counterpart at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the 206 B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations and Counselorships in the United States and Canada, helps college and university students to maintain their links with the Jewish community and to foster in them a love of Judaism and enlightened citizenship.

LEON ISRAEL, JEWISH ARTIST AND CARTOONIST, DIES; WAS 67

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Leon Israel, cartoonist for the Jewish Daily Forward and well known in Jewish art, theatrical and newspaper circles as an artist, died here today at the age of 67. Born in Pinsk, Russia, he came to this country in 1905. A book of reproductions of his paintings and sketches was published last year. His cartoons appeared under the name of "Lola."