

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

550 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Copyright, Reproduction only by previous arrangement

VOL. XXII No. 31 - 37th year

Monday, February 14, 1955

JEWISH GROUPS CALL PARLEY IN WASHINGTON ON U.S. -ISRAEL RELATIONS

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Sixteen major American Jewish organizations issued a call today for a two-day national Jewish conference to be held in Washington for the purpose of reviewing "issues relating to Israel which are of common interest and concern to the American Jewish community."

The call, signed by the presidents of the organizations and communicated to branches and affiliates throughout the country, says that "recent developments in the Middle East have made it necessary to convene an extraordinary conference to review the whole complex of American-Israel relations." Consequently, the presidents of the 16 organizations have decided to call the Washington parley which will open on March 5.

The agenda will include the following items relating to America's role in the attainment of peace in the Middle East region: 1. Economic and technical assistance; 2. The Jordan Valley water development; 3. Military aid to the Arab states and its effect on Israel's security and peace in the Middle East, and 4. Effective defense in the region.

"Crucial Effect" of U.S. Policy in Middle East Cited

"The course of American policy in the Middle East will have a crucial effect on the cause of democracy and freedom in that region," the statement says. "We owe it to ourselves as Americans and Jews to ascertain the facts and thus be better able to make a constructive contribution to the solution of these problems."

"It is urgent that all participating organizations be fully represented to ensure mature deliberations by all segments of the American Jewish community. Every organization will be entitled to twenty-five delegates."

The communication was signed by: American Jewish Congress, Dr. Israel Goldstein; American Trade Union Council for Labor Israel, Joseph Breslaw; American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs, Rabbi Philip Bernstein; American Zionist Council, Rabbi Irving Miller; B'nai B'rith, Philip M. Klutznick; Central Committee, Labor Zionist Organization of America, Dr. Herman Seidel; Hadassah, Mrs. Rebecca Shulman.

Jewish Agency for Palestine, Dr. Nahum Goldmann; Jewish Labor Committee, Adolph Held; Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Joseph S. Barr; Mizrahi Organization of America, Rabbi Max Kirshblum; National Community Relations Advisory Council, Bernard H. Trager; Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath; Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, Moses L. Feuerstein; United Synagogue of America, Charles Rosengarten; Zionist Organization of America, Mortimer May.

ISRAEL BUILDS 3,000,000-VOLT "ATOM SPLITTER" IN UNITED STATES

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Dr. Gvirol Goldring, staff member of the Weizmann Institute for Science, left for the United States today to participate in the construction of a three-million volt atom splitter for the nuclear physics department of the Weizmann Institute which will be the first of its kind in the Middle East.

The machine, a Vande Graff positive-ion accelerator, is to be constructed in Cambridge, Mass., with the participation of Dr. Goldring who will later take care of its installation and operation in Rehovoth, in a new five-wing building of the Weizmann Institute which will house the departments of nuclear physics, electronics, optics and isotope research. The building will be erected on a 30-dunam plot at the Weizmann Memorial, adjoining the Institute.

The machine will be completed in December, 1956, and installed in its new home in Israel in the Spring of 1957. Dr. Amos de Shalit, head of the nuclear physics department of the Institute, said that the machine would contribute greatly to the development of atomic energy in Israel. It will enable the study of nuclear reaction produced by the bombardment of nuclei with high energy protons. "Such experimental studies," said Dr. de Shalit, "are of great importance to the understanding of nuclear structure and nuclear energy."

En route to the United States, Dr. Goldring will spend a month at Strasbourg University. Dr. Goldring, who is 29 years old, was brought to Israel from Frankfurt as a child by his parents in 1933. He studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and later received his Ph.D. at London University.

JORDANIAN TROOPS DRIVE N FROM ISRAEL SOIL; ONE ISRAELI KILLED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- After a heavy exchange of mortar, small arms and machine gunfire, Jordanians troops who had taken positions in Israel territory in the Hebron area were forced to retreat yesterday. In the battle, which involved two separate exchanges of fire, one Israel soldier was killed and two others were wounded. Israel immediately complained to the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission, calling for an emergency meeting to consider the incident.

The engagement began when an Israel military patrol in the Beit Guvrin region found Jordanian soldiers digging emplacements inside Israel territory near the demarcation line. After an exchange of fire, in which both sides used mortars as well as small arms, the Arabs withdrew to Jordan territory. This incident took place in the morning and firing by the Israelis ended after the intervention of United Nations observers.

About 3:30 P. M. local time, the Jordanians suddenly opened up with a heavy concentration of mortars. The Israel forces, in turn, laid down a barrage which finally silenced the Arabs. This region has been the scene of a number of incidents in recent weeks.

ACHDUTH AVODA PARTY IN ISRAEL HITS PRO-AMERICAN POLICY

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Israel's pro-American foreign policy was severely attacked here last night at a meeting of the national council of the Achduth Avoda Party, which recently split from the left Socialist Mapam Party. The attack was made by Israel Galili, one of the national leaders of the party, who also hit the Mapai for allying itself in a national coalition government with the centrist General Zionists and the Mizrahi.

Yigal Alon, one-time leader of the Palmach, striking force of the underground Haganah movement, and a member of the leadership of Achduth Avoda, ridiculed former Premier. David Ben Gurion's proposal for the formation of a broad national "pioneering front." Mr. Alon rejected Mr. Ben Gurion's suggestion, insisting "our goal is the establishment of a Labor government of all Zionist-Socialist parties." Mr. Alon said the party now had 3,000 members organized in 300 branches.

ISRAEL NOW OWNS ALL SCROLLS OF ISAIAH AS NATIONAL TRUST

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Israel has now acquired the last four of seven scrolls of Isaiah found by Bedouins in caves near the Dead Sea whose significance was first realized by the late Prof. Eliezer Sukenik, one of Israel's foremost archaeologists, Premier Moshe Sharett announced to the press today. The four scrolls were purchased by Samuel Gottesman of the United States and given to Israel through the American Fund for Israel Institutions.

Mr. Sharett announced that the Cabinet had decided that the scrolls will be held in perpetual trust as the property of the nation. The scrolls will be on public view in the Hebrew University, which purchased the first three. The Cabinet named the following board of trustees to be responsible for the scrolls:

President Ben Zvi; Premier Sharett; Minister of Education Ben Zion Dinur; Hebrew University president Prof. J. Klausner; Rabbi Zev Evin, editor of the Talmudic Encyclopedia; Gen. Yigal Yadin, former Army Chief of Staff, archaeologist and son of Prof. Sukenik; Edward Norman, head of the American Fund for Israel Institutions, and Mr. and Mrs. Gottesman.

GERMANY WANTS TO USE RESTITUTION FUNDS TO COMPENSATE "ARYANIZERS"

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The West German Government has proposed to the Allies that part of the 1,500,000,000 marks which are to be applied to restitution for assets seized from Jews by the Nazi regime, should be used to recompense Germans who acquired Jewish property "in good faith," the New York Times reports from Berlin. "About 97,000 such properties have been taken from German "Aryanizers" in Berlin, the report says.

"West Germany has contended that the Jewish claims so far do not add up to 1,500,000,000 marks. Accordingly, the Government wants to include in that amount compensation to Germans who were owners of identifiable property already returned by the Allies to former Jewish owners," the Times report explains.

Jewish organizations have complained that the listing of claims was closed a long time ago and that it was impossible at the time for all properly documented claims to be presented, the report points out. It adds that repayment to Jews comes under the Paris Agreements on German sovereignty after the agreements are ratified. Jews living in Berlin suffered the largest loss and restitution to them makes up a great part of the entire problem, the Times correspondent emphasizes.

The Association Against Deprivation of Rights is the name of the organization of former owners of restored Jewish property. In a declaration it asked that those who had "loyally" acquired Jewish property be compensated for losses suffered through the return of Jewish property. The attorney for the organization, Alfred Babendreyer, stated that representatives of the organization had been told by Allied spokesmen that the issue of compensation must be taken up with the West German Government.

CHURCHILL HONORED IN LONDON BY ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

LONDON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill was honored here this week-end by the Israel Institute of Technology at Haifa at a dinner where a testimonial scroll was accepted in his behalf by his daughter, Miss Sarah Churchill. The Prime Minister has agreed that the central auditorium of the Institute should bear his name to mark his 80th birthday last November.

In accepting the scroll, the Prime Minister's daughter said: "Never did so young a state have so old and fine a heritage as Israel. No other country at its birth had the wisdom, traditions and fortitude of an ancient race. These are priceless everlasting assets. With them it can never fail."

U. A. H. C. CONVENTION HEARS PLEA FOR EXPANSION OF REFORM MOVEMENT

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A call for the Reform movement to expand its horizons and activities in the United States and in Israel was voiced here today by Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in his presidential report to the 43rd general assembly of the UAHC. The convention, which opened here last night and will close Wednesday, is being attended by some 1,500 delegates from 500 Reform congregations in the United States, Canada and several neighboring countries.

Dr. Eisendrath recommended specifically that new areas of expansion be marked out in the United States--in the suburbs and rural areas--and in the State of Israel where, he said, there was hope that the Reform movement would shortly establish itself. He urged the assembly to pledge itself, in conjunction with the World Union for Progressive Judaism, to "do its utmost to assure the success of this venture" - in Israel.

In his 20,000-word "State of the Union" message, Dr. Eisendrath urged action on Jewish religious life in the rural areas, asserting that many "isolated Jewish families, hungry and athirst for Jewish knowledge and Jewish guidance, have, in too many instances, no alternatives but to send their children to Christian religious schools and watch them drift into complete assimilation."

The head of the Reform movement also called for greater concentration on adult education, on youth camps and on the establishment of regional offices of the UAHC. At the same time, he insisted that the synagogue must take a more active role in civic and communal affairs and in pressing for social action.

Dr. Samuel S. Hollender, chairman of the executive board of the UAHC and general chairman of the Combined Campaign for the Advancement of Reform Judaism, fund-raising arm of the Reform movement, reported a decade of consistent progress with the UAHC growing from 300 to 499 congregations in that period. The combined membership of the Reform congregations, he declared, is almost 1,000,000 men, women and children. Dr. Hollender declared that Reform Judaism was "particularly complementary to our American democratic society."

Isidor Coons, executive vice-chairman of the Combined Campaign, reported last night that more than \$1,050,000 had been raised to date in the current drive for support of the Union and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. The minimum needs of the two institutions, he declared, is \$2,340,000.

In a message to the general assembly, President Eisenhower saluted the Union and declared that its growth was a "striking demonstration of a great strengthening within your faith." The message also stated: "Whenever such evidence exists of a genuine growth in religious interest, it should enhearten every American. For the more vigorous our religious institutions, the greater the possibility that the voice of morality will be heard in widening areas of public life and in the consideration of national and international problems."

SHORTAGE OF RABBIS CONSIDERED SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR U. S. JEWRY

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The shortage of rabbis in the United States is "the greatest problem facing American Jewry" it was declared here today at the mid-winter conference of the national planning committee of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. The conference was attended by 110 leaders of Jewish communities from all parts of the U. S. and Canada.

Reporting that the more than 5,000,000 Jews in this country are served by no more than 2,000 rabbis of all groups, Daniel G. Ross, of New York, chairman of the planning committee, said: "This number compares sadly with the 9,000 serving about 5,000,000 Presbyterians, the 22,000 ministers serving some 8,000,000 Methodists, and the approximately 30,000 priests serving some 30,000,000 Roman Catholics."

ISRAEL LABOR CONFERENCE IN U. S. RAISES \$1,000,000 FOR HISTADRUTH

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The sum of \$1,000,000 was raised here today at a mid-winter "roll call" conference of the National Committee for Labor Israel, attended by 800 delegates from all parts of the United States. The 1955 goal of the organization, which helps support Histadrut activities in Israel, is \$5,000,000.

The Egyptian hanging of two Jews two weeks ago was condemned in a resolution which called the execution "an act of barbarism with political purposes" rather than a just verdict. In another resolution, the delegates hailed the golden jubilee of the pioneering founders of the Histadrut who came to Palestine in the so-called "second aliyah" a half-century ago.

Congressman Emanuel Celler, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, told the conference that objections to the shipment of American arms to the Arab states are valid and should not be dismissed lightly. He called on the National Committee for Labor Israel to continue its vigorous opposition to arms shipments to the Arab states "until there is at least peace between Israel and the Arab states."

Louis Segal, leading Labor Zionist and member of the Jewish Agency executive, reporting on his recent trip to North Africa and Israel, assured the delegates that the anticipated immigration of 30,000 North African Jews to Israel in 1955 would be "one of the most effective life-saving operations in the history of Zionism." The unsettled conditions in France, he declared, "will make the Jews of North Africa even more anxious to get out while they can."

WORLD JEWISH POPULATION PUT AT 11,867,000 BY JEWISH YEAR BOOK

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The world Jewish population today is 11,867,000, according to figures presented in the 56th annual issue of the American Jewish Year Book published today. The United States has 5,000,000 Jews, the Soviet Union has about 2,000,000 Jews, and the Jewish population of Israel is 1,488,470.

In detailing Jewish population figures, the year book reports that the European countries with the largest Jewish populations, after Soviet Russia, are England with 450,000 and France with 300,000. In the Western Hemisphere, Argentina is second with 360,000; Canada has 230,000 and Brazil, 120,000.

The year book, which is published under the direction of the American Jewish Committee, contains studies of Jewish life throughout the world during the past year, including articles on various aspects of Jewish life in the United States. Among the articles in the Tercentenary volume are a survey of civil liberties developments in the United States during the past year, a study of relations between the United States and Israel, and an article on Germany documenting the extent of neo-Nazi infiltration into positions of authority in the West German government.

TRUMAN URGES AMERICANS TO COMBAT ATTACKS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Former President Harry S. Truman declared here last night that the defense of men against attacks on human rights and freedom is to be found "in the faith we profess - the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God." He made his remarks in an address here before the Missouri chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

President Truman asserted that the unity of diverse groups in America was achieved by "holding to a concept which rises above them all - the concept of the brotherhood of man."

HISTORICAL SOCIETY REVIEWS DEVELOPMENT OF JEWISH LIFE IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Various developments in American Jewish life during the 300 years of Jewish settlement to this country were reviewed here last night by 250 Jewish scholars addressing the opening session of the 53rd annual meeting of the American Jewish Historical Society. The meeting will last two days.

Prof. Salo W. Baron of Columbia University, president of the society, told the meeting that the United States was the only modern country to consistently attract more Jewish immigrants than the number that had chosen to leave. He noted that various groups which could not get along with other in Holland or England had come to this country in its early years and had combined their efforts in building Jewish communities here on whose present foundations a still deeper-rooted Jewish community will be built.

Three winners of historical essays in American and Jewish history received their awards at last night's session. They were: David Brody, graduate student at Harvard University, first prize, \$500; Jules Zimmerman of Brooklyn, second prize, \$200; Lt. Hugh H. Schwartz, former Columbia University student, third prize.

LINCOLN LETTER ON JEWS DISCOVERED; WAS UNKNOWN AND UNPUBLISHED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A newly-discovered letter written by Abraham Lincoln highlights the Great Emancipator's attitude toward Jews. It shows that, despite hostility against Jews generated by the tensions and crises of the Civil War, President Lincoln insisted on giving Jews fair recognition for their part in the war effort.

The Lincoln letter, hitherto unknown and unpublished, is reproduced in the February issue of "The National Jewish Monthly," published by B'nai B'rith. It illustrates an article written by Dr. Bertram W. Korn, Philadelphia rabbi who is the author of "American Jewry and the Civil War."

The letter was sent by Lincoln to his Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, dated November 4, 1862. It reads as follows: "I believe we have not yet appointed a Hebrew - As Chemie M. Levy is well vouched, as a capable and faithful man, let him be appointed an Assistant Quartermaster, with the rank of Captain." Dr. Korn points out that this appointment "was obviously not concerned with Jewish votes; there were not enough Jews in America for their votes to be decisively important."

Dr. Korn also relates how Lincoln cancelled General Grant's notorious Order No. 11 directed against "Jewish pedlars," and helped bring about a change in the law so that a Jewish chaplain could be named to the armed forces for the first time in American history.

300 YEARS OF JEWISH UNITY COMMEMORATED AT DINNER FOR RABBIS

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A testimonial dinner to Rabbis Israel Goldstein, Joseph H. Lookstein and Julius Mark, leading figures of the Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Judaism movements, respectively, was tendered here tonight by the American Jewish Literary Foundation, publishers of the forthcoming tercentenary edition of "American Jews--Their Lives and Achievement."

The affair commemorated the historic unity of the Jewish community in the past three centuries and marked an occasion of unity for representatives of all three sections of American Judaism. Among the major speakers at the dinner were Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, honorary president of the American Jewish Committee, and Charles H. Silver, president of the New York City Board of Education.