



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

VOL. XXII No. 35 - 37th year

Friday, February 18, 1955

ISRAEL BOND LEADERS SPLIT; DISAGREE ON TIMING OF DETROIT DRIVE

DETROIT, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Leaders of the Israel Bond Committee in Detroit today issued a statement protesting against the national headquarters of the Israel Bond campaign arranging a dinner for bonds here on March 1 while preparations are in progress for the local 1955 Allied Jewish Campaign.

The statement, which will be published in the Detroit Jewish News tomorrow, is signed by Phillip Stollman, chairman of the Detroit Israel Bond Committee, and David Safran, chairman of the Bond executive committee. It informed Detroit Jewry that the Bond executive committee had voted overwhelmingly at two meetings to protest against the sponsoring of a dinner for Bonds on March 1.

Messrs. Stollman and Safran stated that it was the strong conviction of the Detroit Bond executive committee that no public functions should be held while preparations are in progress for the 1955 Allied Jewish Campaign, but that the national bond leaders had overruled their decision and completely ignored the sentiments of local leaders.

"We have protested to the Israel Embassy and the Israel Ministry of Finance," the two leaders stated, "and have been informed that the matter will be reviewed soon. But by ignoring our sentiments the national bond leaders are flouting all democratic principles and we protest against such arbitrary and autocratic action. In Israel's best interests, it is our sincere hope--with a week's time left for action--that the national bond office will concede the right of local leaders to act on dates to be chosen for bond functions in Detroit. For the sake of successful Allied Jewish Campaign and Israel Bond drives and in support of the highest democratic ideals, we hope Detroit Jewry will support us in the position taken by our committee."

Compromise Rejected by Headquarters, Detroit Leaders Claim

Messrs. Stollman and Safran revealed that alternate proposals were made by the executive committee to raise \$150,000 in bond sales and collections, without a public function, provided the March 1 dinner were postponed until June. Mr. Stollman, supported by Daniel Laven, offered to issue personal checks in this amount to guarantee the raising of this sum.

"This offer was ignored," the bond committee chairmen revealed. "We are saddened by the course of events which compels us to make these facts public, but

we are convinced that, acting democratically, we can best aid Israel. We remain dedicated to the best interests of Israel and our Jewish community."

(In New York, Julian B. Venezky, chairman of the executive committee of the Israel Bond Organization, made the following comment: "The State of Israel, through the Israel Bond Organization, has registered its bonds with the Securities and Exchange Commission of the United States Government. In accordance with this registration, it is authorized to sell its bonds in all parts of the United States, including the city of Detroit. The dinner on March 1 is being held in Detroit to further the sale of State of Israel Bonds."

MILWAUKEE JEWISH WELFARE FUND SEEKS TO CHECK NEW CAMPAIGNS

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- A resolution aimed at discouraging beneficiary organizations of the Milwaukee Jewish Welfare Fund from conducting separate fund-raising campaigns in this city for the next two years, was unanimously adopted by the welfare fund's executive committee. The resolution provides that such agencies would have to obtain prior permission from the Welfare Fund before they could hold a campaign here during that period.

The resolution has not yet been passed by the board of directors of the Welfare Fund. It was presented to a membership meeting which decided not to act on it until the board had considered it. The matter is termed here "the hottest" issue in recent years. The resolution said in part:

"In order to provide the Milwaukee Jewish Community with a temporary respite with respect to campaigns for money, and in order to provide the Multiple Appeals Committee with sufficient time to study the problem and prepare recommendations, the Milwaukee Jewish Welfare Fund shall not approve any new campaigns to be conducted by beneficiary agencies during the year 1955, nor shall it approve any campaign planned for 1956, unless there has been prior consultation with the Welfare Fund and approval with respect to such campaign obtained at least nine months prior to the date thereof."

Community organizations which are not beneficiaries of the fund were urged to cooperate with the terms of the resolution, and it added that all beneficiaries would be "required" to do so. The resolution also asked that communal leaders exercise "personal restraint" with regard to unapproved campaigns and refrain from participating in or contributing to campaigns at variance with the temporary policy expressed in the resolution.

ISRAEL DEFENSE MINISTER RESIGNS; WILL EXPLAIN ACTION TO PARLIAMENT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Defense Minister Pinchas Lavon resigned today, an official communique announced here.

The communique revealed that Mr. Lavon had tendered his resignation Feb. 2, but that discussions had been held between Mr. Lavon and Premier Moshe Sharett from that date until today when Mr. Lavon informed the Premier that his decision was final. The reasons for his action will be placed before the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, the announcement concluded.

F L A S H

BEN GURION AGREES TO BECOME ISRAEL DEFENSE MINISTER

TEL AVIV, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Former Premier David Ben Gurion tonight accepted Premier Moshe Sharett's invitation to enter his Cabinet as Defense Minister replacing Pinchas Lavon, whose resignation was announced earlier today.

SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ACTS ON BAT GALIM COMPLAINT

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Israel's latest request for Egyptian release of the seized freighter Bat Galim has already brought action on the part of Dr. Victor A. Belaunde of Peru, president of the United Nations Security Council.

Highest UN circles today confirmed the fact that "Dr. Belaunde has had his first contact with the Egyptian delegation on this matter." The Council president's action followed a letter from Abba S. Eban, Israel's permanent delegate to the UN, insisting not only that Egypt release the vessel which was seized last September, but also that the vessel be permitted to finish its journey through the Suez Canal.

The Egyptians are understood to have assured Dr. Belaunde that they will be able to discuss the Bat Galim issue with him further "early next week." The Egyptian delegation has presumably asked Cairo for further instructions.

STATE DEPT. DOUBTS REPORT ON ARAB-ISRAEL ACCORD ON WATER PROJECT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- State Department sources indicated unofficial doubts today of a report from Damascus that Israel and the Arab states of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon had reached agreement on a proposal by Presidential envoy Eric Johnston that Lake Tiberias should be used as the main reservoir for a Jordan Valley development scheme. The Israel Embassy here had no information concerning the report.

The dispatch, carried today in the New York press, cited sources close to Ambassador Johnston's mission and an Arab spokesman as saying that both sides are reported in agreement on the "necessity" of a comprehensive plan for development of the Jordan's watershed and neutral international supervision of the water distribution. The report said that Jordan had made a "concession" in agreeing to the use of Lake Tiberias as a reservoir instead of a dam on the Yarmuk River and might be ready to make a further "concession" regarding her share of the water, if it could obtain a "higher dam on the Yarmuk than the one proposed" in the Johnston plan.

The dispatch pointed out that agreement on the use of Lake Tiberias has removed the last major obstacle to the establishment of a supranational Jordan Valley Authority, but that Syrian political developments have postponed for several months hopes of complete agreement. It added that Ambassador Johnston planned a fourth trip to the Near East "within a few months" in the expectation of obtaining final agreement from both sides.

U. S. CHARGED WITH ISOLATING ISRAEL; URGED TO NEGOTIATE SECURITY PACT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Attacking the enforced isolation of Israel, Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council, urged tonight negotiation of a security treaty between the United States and Israel similar to those being arranged with the Moslem countries of the Middle East. He spoke at a dinner sponsored by the State of Israel Bond Organization.

Rabbi Miller charged that defense of the Middle East was being organized on a discriminatory basis. Citing the network of treaties being built up by the West in this area, as well as arms agreements involving this country and Pakistan and Iraq, he asked: "Why is no treaty being negotiated between the United States and Israel? Is the exclusion of Israel from these pacts a deliberate policy on the part of the Western Powers? If so, on what basis is this policy being pursued?"

The Rabbi said an American-Israel treaty is a positive necessity if the free world is to maintain its strongest possible posture in the Middle East. He said exclusion of Israel would deal a severe blow to Western defense plans. He emphasized the important role Israel could play, both in its capacity as a democracy and as a military arsenal and repair shop of known value.

AGUDAH LEADER BRINGS EYE-WITNESS REPORT FROM PRAGUE, BUDAPEST

LONDON, Feb. 17. (JTA). -- An eye-witness report of the situation of Jews in Czechoslovakia and Hungary was given here today by H.A. Goodman, political secretary of the Agudas Israel World Organization, who has just returned from a visit to Prague and Budapest.

"No Jewish communal life except that associated with the synagogue or of a purely social and charitable character is permitted in these countries," he said. "All Jewish political parties, including the Zionists and Agudists are not permitted to function, but precisely the same rule applies to the Christian organizations." He emphasized that Jewish communal life is "being carried on with the full cognizance of the state, which in many cases renders appreciable support despite ideological differences between the state and church."

The Jewish community of Czechoslovakia is dying out, Mr. Goodman reported. It numbers some 15,000 persons. In Prague Mr. Goodman was told that the Chevra Kadisha is the most important Jewish organization. Religious educational facilities are not available, except for children of registered members of the Jewish community--and then only upon written application and for only one or two hours a week in state schools.

Nevertheless, the Agudah leader continued, the rabbinate in Prague maintains Jewish ritual slaughter of animals for food, runs a kosher communal kitchen and a ritual bath, all of which are supported by the state. All Jewish officials in Czechoslovakia are paid by the state. He revealed that in response to a question he put to a rabbi as to who instructs Jewish boys in preparation for Bar Mitzvah, he was told that "they had no boys of that age; that none had returned from Auschwitz or Maidanek extermination camps; that all the children in the Jewish community were born after the liberation" of 1945.

Finds Jewish Situation in Hungary Better Than in Czechoslovakia

Regarding the situation in Hungary, Mr. Goodman expressed the opinion that it was more satisfactory than that in Czechoslovakia. It was hard to know how many Jews were left in the country, he said, but estimated their number at about 100,000. One hundred and ten exit permits have been granted to Jews, almost exclusively elderly people, he reported, and a like number of exit visas have been granted to elderly non-Jews.

Mr. Goodman said that there are thousands of Jews who are not registered with the Jewish community in Budapest and that when they attend synagogues they go to synagogues a distance from their own homes. This is so not because they have any specific fear at the moment, "but nobody knows how the wind will blow."

Mr. Goodman reported that he had visited the communal institutions, including a Talmud Torah where some 500 children were receiving instruction. There are two yeshivoh in the Hungarian provinces, he said, with a total of 150 students, who have been exempted from military service.

When he attended synagogue services in Budapest last Saturday there were some 600 persons present and the atmosphere appeared completely free. The community in Budapest supports seven ritual slaughterers, an old age home, a kosher communal kitchen and many social services. The only restaurant in Hungary not operated by the government is a kosher one, he underlined. This restaurant is frequently visited by non-Jews. The government recently permitted the establishment of a number of Orthodox cooperatives where Sabbath-observing Jews can work.

Mr. Goodman concluded his report with a warm tribute to the Israel Charge d' Affaires in Budapest who, he said, has been a great source of comfort to the Jews in their hour of need, while at the same time he maintained a "correct" attitude toward the Jewish community.

10,000 COMMUNITIES IN U.S. TO START "BROTHERHOOD WEEK" OBSERVANCE

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- More than 10,000 communities in the United States will start the observance of Brotherhood Week this week-end under the sponsorship of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

A call by President Eisenhower to the people of the United States to join in the observance of the Week was issued from the White House. Responding to this call, governors and mayors will this week-end issue proclamations in their localities. Special activities related to the Brotherhood Week will be sponsored by civic bodies, schools, colleges, fraternal organizations, veteran, youth and labor groups. Special religious services will be conducted in churches and synagogues throughout the country.

In his Brotherhood Week message, President Eisenhower, who is honorary chairman of this year's observance, said: "The spirit which lies behind our observance of Brotherhood Week is as old as our civilization. It goes back to the answer given to the first man who asked, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' Through thousands of years there have been many noble answers to this same question, answers which bravely affirm that all men--of all religions, of all colors, of all languages--are in fact brothers, that no man can live alone. But in every age the question is asked, and in every age it must be answered anew.

"We live in a period in which the question has a new sharpness and a new edge, because there are new forces in the world which divide and threaten men, forces which work to lock each man within the prison of his own mind, which make friend distrust friend, nation distrust nation. In the face of these forces it is imperative that we heroically by word and deed give voice to our faith: that every man is indeed his brother's keeper, that no human being in the world can escape his spiritual involvement in what happens to any other human being, that no man, in the troubled sea of mankind, can be an island. It is the purpose of Brotherhood Week to inspire us to give that answer for our time, with an eloquence never before heard."

The National Conference of Christians and Jews, which sponsors Brotherhood Week, was founded in 1928. Its purpose, as stated in its by-laws, is "to promote justice, amity, understanding and cooperation among Protestants, Catholics and Jews, and to analyze, moderate and finally eliminate intergroup prejudices which disfigure and distort religious, business, social and political relations, with a view to establishment of a social order in which the religious ideals of brotherhood and justice shall become standards of human relationships."

The board of directors of the NCCJ is made up of 200 members of nearly equal numbers of Protestants, Catholics and Jews. They represent most geographical areas, and many economic, ethnic and social groups of the United States. The board has complete policy power and the authority to decide budget, raise money, elect officers, and appoint committees and commissions.

Voice of America to Broadcast Program in 38 Languages

The Voice of America has prepared a Brotherhood Week program called "The Life We Prize" which will be beamed throughout the world in 38 foreign languages. Radio and television stations will carry brotherhood messages in song, story and discussions throughout the week. Utilizing the facilities of the broadcasting industry to reach the largest possible home audience, the major religious groups have scheduled a series of network religious programs.

The nation's 18,500 picture theatres have organized a Brotherhood Week campaign to enroll 50,000 new members for the National Conference of Christians and Jews. As a highlight of the week's observance, 35 winners of brotherhood awards, selected from all fields of the media of mass communications, will be presented with scrolls at special Brotherhood Week ceremonies. The winners will be cited "for outstanding contributions promoting the cause of good will and understanding among the people of our nation."

JEWISH POPULATION IN TORONTO INCREASES, GOVERNMENT CENSUS SHOWS

TORONTO, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- There were some 12,900 Jewish families in Toronto in 1951, compared to 10,149 in 1931 and 11,774 in 1941, it was estimated by the Canadian Jewish Congress' national research program on the basis of government census statistics.

The CJC estimated that the average size of the Jewish family in Toronto was 3.2 persons as compared to 3.6 persons in 1941 and 4.2 in 1931. In this respect the Jewish family closely paralleled families of all origins in the city.

In Cornwall, Ontario, a city of 17,500 with 232 Jews, the community carried out a self-survey recently. At the same time, an historical study was also prepared, partly on the basis of questions asked in the 75 Jewish households in the city. Despite the fact that the city has few Jews, the mayor for 16 of the last 25 years has been a Jew, Aaron Horowitz.

COLORADO SEEKS TO EXTEND LEGISLATION ON BIAS IN EMPLOYMENT

DENVER, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Leaders of both houses of the Colorado state legislature have been conferring with legislators and citizens interested in human relations about new FEPC legislation to extend coverage and improve administration of the state's Fair Employment Practices Act. Among the conferees were representatives of B'nai B'rith, the Anti-Defamation League and a rabbi, as well as non-Jewish laymen and clergymen.

The present act, which went into effect four years ago, established an Anti-Discrimination Division within the Industrial Commission of Colorado and a Governor's Human Relations Commission charged with the duty of preparing and planning an educational program to carry out the purposes of the Act. The state can force public employers to halt discrimination in employment, under the terms of the Act, but has no jurisdiction to force compliance by private employers. New legislation is aimed at covering private employment.

BOROWITZ NAMED CHAIRMAN OF COMBINED JEWISH APPEAL IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- David Borowitz has been named general chairman of Chicago's 1955 Combined Jewish Appeal, it was announced today by the presidents of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Chicago and of the Jewish Federation of Chicago. He has long been active in civic and philanthropic affairs in this city.

Mr. Borowitz stated that the 1955 Combined Jewish Appeal must raise a minimum of \$6,600,000 to meet the basic needs of the United Jewish Appeal's work in Israel, North Africa and Europe; for the work of other national and overseas organizations which receive their major funds from Chicago through the CJA campaign; for the support of Jewish education in Chicago; and to help meet the operating deficits of the Jewish Federation and its medical and social welfare institutions and agencies here in Chicago.

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORMED IN AUGUSTA; INCLUDES MAJOR GROUPS

AUGUSTA, Ga., Feb. 17. (JTA) -- A Jewish Community Council has been organized in this city to further the welfare of the Jewish community by the establishment, through a recognized representative body, of goodwill and cordial relations within and without the community. Affiliated groups include the YMHA, temple and synagogue groups, Hadassah, Daughters of Israel, Zionist Organization of America, youth groups and the Federation of Jewish Charities.