



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXII No. 102 - 37th year Thursday, May 26, 1955

ISRAEL TAKES FIRST STEP IN RELAXING FOREIGN CURRENCY REGULATIONS

JERUSALEM, May 25. (JTA) -- Israel's foreign currency situation has improved to such an extent that the government will permit its citizens to maintain foreign currency accounts rather than force the conversion of all foreign currency into Israel pounds, it was officially announced here today. This first step in relaxation of currency controls, which will take effect next month, will cover foreign currency received from insurance payments, commissions and earnings, proceeds from property sales, restitution payments and gifts.

Foreign currency receipts for the fiscal year 1954-55 totalled \$398 million, an increase of \$138 million over the previous year. This meant that the Treasury could double its foreign exchange reserve, which backs its currency, and could pay its debts abroad despite an increase in world commodity prices and a drop of nearly \$30 million. In American economic aid as compared with the year before. In this period, too, Israel decreased its short-term indebtedness from \$63 million to \$34 million.

Foreign currency receipts in the last fiscal year included the equivalent of \$95 million from German reparations, over \$88 million from exports and services, over \$78 million from contributions to Jewish public institutions and \$38 million from the sale of development bonds in the United States and other countries.

TWELVE ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO RAISE FUNDS FOR ISRAEL IN U.S.

NEW YORK, May 25. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency's Committee on Control and Authorization of Campaigns, which coordinates fund-raising for Israel in this country, today made public a list of organizations authorized to conduct campaigns for the benefit of Israel in 1955.

The committee has been set up under the auspices of the Jewish Agency and includes representatives of the Israel Consulate, United Jewish Appeal, Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and United Israel Appeal. The following twelve organizations received their authorization after the committee studied their financial data, and on a pledge of priority to the United Jewish Appeal:

American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science; American Friends of the Hebrew University; American Fund for Israel Institutions; American Red Mogen David for Israel (membership campaign only); American Technion Society; Federated Council of Israel Institutions; Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America; Jewish National Fund (traditional collections only); Mizrahi Women's Organization of America; National Committee for Labor Israel (Histadrut Campaign); Pioneer Women, the Women's Labor Zionist Organization of America, and Women's League for Israel. (New York area).

GOLDMANN CONFERS IN GERMANY ON REPARATIONS PAYMENTS TO ISRAEL

BONN, May 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, conferred here today with German Federal Minister for Economics Prof. Ludwig Erhard on financial and economic problems pertaining to reparations payments to Israel and the Conference.

Tomorrow, Dr. Goldmann is scheduled to go to Berlin to confer with municipal officials on the long-pending "global settlement" between Berlin and Jewish successor organizations on heirless and communal Jewish property which comes under the jurisdiction of Allied restitution legislation. Negotiations for such a settlement have been going on for two years. From Berlin, Dr. Goldmann will fly to Israel.

The 50-member Israel Purchasing Mission, which handles all Israel orders for reparations goods from Germany and some other matters, moved today into a newly erected office building in Cologne which was laid out according to the mission's specification and on which the mission has taken a long lease.

The three-story structure has 88 offices, a number of waiting rooms, an auditorium for lectures and films, a reading room, a snack bar and 12 small suites for visiting Israel experts. Rental of this building is expected to save the mission some \$10,000 annually as compared to the rental of quarters used heretofore. The mission handles various consular duties in behalf of Israelis doing business with Germany or visiting or residing in Germany.

ISRAEL ORCHESTRA TO PLAY IN VATICAN CITY TODAY FOR POPE PIUS XII

ROME May 25 (JTA) -- The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, which has been given an enthusiastic reception by concert-goers in the major Italian cities will wind up its tour of Italy with a concert for Pope Pius XII in Vatican City tomorrow. After the concert the Pope will receive the members of the orchestra in a private audience.

ISRAEL SUBMITS FIVE PAPERS TO INTERNATIONAL PARLEY ON ATOMIC ENERGY

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. May 25 (JTA) -- Israel has submitted five scientific papers to the forthcoming International Conference for the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy which opens in Geneva August 8. A total of 945 papers have been presented so far by 23 governments, the United Nations, International Labor Organization, World Health Organization and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization.

Israel thus far is the only government in the Middle East to have submitted any papers to the atomic energy conference. Along with many other governments, Israel submitted a comprehensive report on its energy requirements. While this paper, entitled "The Energy Requirements of the State of Israel," like all the other abstracts sent to the UN so far, is being kept confidential for the time being, it is understood to embrace calculations of Israel's future needs for power for a period of at least fifty years.

The other papers submitted by Israel are titled as follows: "Measurements of Natural Water Sources as Aid in Prospecting for Underground Deposits of Uranium;" "The Design of Isotope Separation Plants--Some Basic Designed Equations for the Distillation Process;" "Application of Radioactive Carbon Labelled Substances in the Study of the Formation and Destruction of Body Fats," and "The Medical Use of Radioactive Isotopes in the Radio and Tumor Institute of the Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem."

It was noted here that Israel has so far not submitted a paper dealing with its successful manufacture of heavy water--a process in which Israel is outstanding.

An exhibition of 3,000 Israel scientific works will be held in Paris from June 1-10 to acquaint the French public with Israel's accomplishments in and contributions to such fields as agriculture, medicine, physics and chemistry. The exhibition, which also is aimed at solidifying the relations between the Israel and French scientific worlds is under the patronage of a committee headed by Prince Louis de Broglie and Israel Ambassador Yaacov Tsur.

FIRST SETTLEMENT IN \$20,000,000 ISRAEL PROJECT BEGINS FUNCTIONING

TEL AVIV May 25 (JTA) -- The first settlement in the Lakish development region, southwest of Jerusalem, was opened yesterday at Otzem when the settlers, recent immigrants from remote Moroccan villages in the Atlas Mountains, arrived and began working on permanent homes. The formal dedication of this first settlement in the region was delayed by the sudden death yesterday of Prof. Itzhak Elazari-Volcani, one of Israel's foremost agricultural pioneers.

Temporary dwellings were ready for the new settlers whose families average six people. A water supply had already been assured and a kindergarten, school, clinic and cooperative store were standing when they arrived. Another such settlement is due to be opened next Monday. Plans call for the erection of 21 such settlements and an urban center, Kfar Gat, within this year, the entire project to cost some \$20,000,000.

COUNCIL OF JEWS FROM GERMANY OPENS INSTITUTE IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM May 25 (JTA) -- The Leo Baeck Institute for Jewish culture and scholarship was opened here today at a ceremony attended by Dr. Max Gruenwald, president of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, and Dr. Rudolf Callmann, chairman of the board of the federation. The organization is the American branch of the Council of Jews from Germany which opened the center with funds obtained from German reparations monies paid to the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

The institute is named for Dr. Leo Baeck, president of the Council of Jews from Germany and one-time Chief Rabbi of Berlin. During the war the Nazis threw Dr. Baeck into a concentration camp where he was rescued by American troops in 1945. Dr. Baeck resides now in Britain.

ISRAEL IMMIGRANTS TO GET COMPENSATION FOR BAGGAGE LOST IN ITALY

JERUSALEM May 25 (JTA) -- The Israel Government submitted to Parliament today a draft bill providing for the payment of 900,000 pounds in compensation to immigrants to Israel for baggage and personal effects which they lost in Italian ports when World War II broke out. The government has already negotiated an agreement with Italy under which the Italian Government will pay Israel the equivalent of 900,000 pounds provided the Israel Government settles all claims of its citizens.

U. N. COMMISSIONER FINDS GERMAN INDEMNIFICATION LAWS "UNSATISFACTORY"

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. May 25. (JTA) -- Criticism of West Germany's indemnification laws for victims of Nazi persecution was expressed in the annual report presented here today to the United Nations Economic and Social Council by Dr. G. J. van Heuven Goedhart, UN High Commissioner for Refugees. He pointed out that "some" provisions of the German law "are unsatisfactory."

The UN High Commissioner reported that there is "reasonable hope" that the remaining DP camps in Europe may be reduced considerably in the next four years. He coupled this expression of hope for reduction of the refugee problem with a reminder that realization of the goal could be achieved only if governments continue contributing funds to the refugee program. Israel is among the nations that has contributed, he stated in his report.

Israel is also among the countries that has ratified two important documents relating to the High Commissioner's work: One is the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees; the other is a special document providing that countries are obliged to aid documentary searches for proof of death of missing persons.

GERMANS BURNED DOCUMENTS ON POISONING OF JEWS IN NAZI CAMPS

FRANKFURT, May 25. (JTA) -- Documents dealing with the shipment of "Zyklon B" poison gas to Auschwitz and other destinations were deliberately burnt by a German engineer at the time of the Nazi collapse, a bookkeeper testified before a local court here which is trying Dr. Gerhard Peters for having collaborated in the murder of at least 300,000 Jews.

The witness, Alfred Zaun, was head bookkeeper of "Tesch & Stabinow," Hamburg chemical distributors for the firm headed by Peters, the "German Corporation for Vermin Extermination." The owner of "Tesch & Stabinow," Dr. Bruno Tesch, and his manager Weinbacher were sentenced to death by a British Military Court in 1947 and hanged in Hamelin prison. Dr. Peters, for his part, has faced German courts seven times in seven years and is still at liberty as an executive of a chemical plant at Weseling near Cologne.

NEW YORK U. J. A. CAMPAIGN FOR 1955 PASSES \$16,000,000 MARK

NEW YORK, May 25. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York reported today that its 1955 campaign has passed the \$16,000,000 mark and its volunteer workers launched a series of mass telephone solicitation sessions for more contributions. The telephone campaign, of which State Attorney General Jacob K. Javits is chairman, began immediately after 150 key UJA volunteers attended a breakfast meeting in the Plaza Hotel where they heard a report on the progress of the drive.

Speakers at the breakfast meeting included Mayor Wagner, who is chairman of the Non-Sectarian Community Committee for the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York; Mr. Javits, who presided; Avraham Harman, Israel's Consul General in New York; and the five general chairmen of the New York UJA campaign--Joseph Eisner, Samuel Hausman, Benjamin Lazrus, Jerome I. Udell and Jack D. Weiler. Mayor Wagner was presented with a silver-bound Bible hand-crafted in Israel in appreciation of his active interest in the New York UJA campaign and as a bon voyage gift for the trip abroad, including a visit to Israel, on which he will leave shortly.

CANADA CLARIFIES STAND ON ADMISSION OF "HARD CORE" IMMIGRANTS

MONTREAL, May 25. (JTA) -- J. W. Pickersgill, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, will consider admissible those "hard-core" immigrants who are not suffering from an active disease and who may become self-sustaining, he has informed Samuel Bronfman, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Replying to a joint memorandum from the CJC and the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society, the Minister said that ruling of admissibility of immigrants would also be tied to the presentation of adequate guarantees that the refugees would not become public charges--which the Jewish groups had offered to present. Mr. Pickersgill reiterated that for immigration purposes the term "refugee" includes all persons who have been displaced from their country of nationality or citizenship as a result of events arising from World War II and who have not been resettled in another country.

MICHIGAN STATE LEGISLATURE ADOPTS FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES ACT

DETROIT, May 25. (JTA) -- The Michigan State Legislature formally adopted last night a Fair Employment Practices Act for that state. Governor G. Mennen Williams is expected to sign the measure within the next few days.

(Hailing the enactment of the legislation, Charles S. Zimmerman, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee's anti-discrimination department, said in New York: "The bill enacted by the legislature was passed after many years of constant and consistent effort on the part of the united labor movement in the State of Michigan. This is the second state this year to enact such legislation, making a total of 14 states with FEPC laws.")

BLAUSTEIN RECEIVES TWO AWARDS; HONORED BY U.S., ISRAEL STATESMEN

BALTIMORE, May 25. (JTA) -- Jacob Blaustein, noted Jewish leader, today received the Governor's Medal and a tribute unique in Maryland's history when he was presented with a giant silver tray engraved with the names of 250 American and foreign statesmen. Mr. Blaustein was honored for his services as a humanitarian and philanthropist.

The honors were paid here personally to Mr. Blaustein by 800 civic and business leaders at a testimonial luncheon of the Advertising Club of Baltimore. Among the tributes inscribed on the tray were those from Vice President Richard M. Nixon; former President Harry S. Truman; Secretary of State John Foster Dulles; House Speaker Sam Rayburn; Governor Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland; Governor Averell Harriman of New York; Adlai Stevenson; Prime Minister Moshe Sharett and Defense Minister David Ben Gurion of Israel; Senators Alben W. Barkley, Herbert H. Lehman and John Marshall Butler; Abba Eban, Israel Ambassador to the U.S.; Archbishop Francis P. Keogh of Baltimore and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

Presentation of the silver tray was made by Dr. Lowell J. Reed, president of Johns Hopkins University. The Governor's Medal was presented for Governor McKeldin by C. R. Zarfoss, president of the club and vice-president of Western Maryland Railways. Governor McKeldin sent his cable of presentation from Heidelberg, Germany, where he is receiving an honorary degree from the university there. The city's greetings were presented by Mayor Thomas D'Allesandro, Jr.

In accepting the two awards, Mr. Blaustein said that beyond the obligation of vocation, public service and philanthropy, "Americans have a further vital obligation to protect our nation and preserve our democratic processes against the inroads of totalitarianism, be it Communism or Fascism. We must deal vigorously and effectively with subversive activities; but we must also be careful that in our eagerness to root out the cancer of Communism, we do not destroy the healthy tissue of American democracy."

HARMAN, ISRAEL CONSUL GENERAL, RETURNS TO JERUSALEM. HONORED IN N. Y.

NEW YORK, May 25. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency and the American Zionist Council tendered a farewell reception today to the Israel Consul General, Avraham Harman, and his wife, Zina Harman, who is a member of the Israel delegation to the United Nations. A similar reception was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Harman yesterday by the leaders of the Histadrut campaign in the United States.

Mr. and Mrs. Harman are returning next week to Israel after holding Israel diplomatic posts in this country for the last five years. Mr. Harman will assume a high post in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem after his return to Israel. He will be succeeded as Israel Consul General in New York by Cecil Hyman who last served as Israel Minister in Johannesburg.

Speakers at the Jewish Agency-Zionist Council reception, which took place at the Waldorf-Astoria, were Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the AZC; Mrs. Rose Halprin, acting chairman of the Agency; and Rabbi Mordecai Kirshblum and Ralph Wechsler, vice-chairmen of the AZC. They lauded Mr. Harman for his contributions toward a better understanding between Israel and American Jewry. Speakers at the Histadrut reception included A. Hamlin, Joseph Schlossberg and Alexander Kahn.

KLUTZNICK HONORED BY ISRAEL EMBASSY FOR B'NAI B'RITH ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON, May 25. (JTA) -- Philip Klutznick, world president of B'nai B'rith, was honored today at the Israel Embassy in recognition of his activities and those of B'nai B'rith in the establishment of a rehabilitation center in Israel at the Tel Hashomer Hospital in Israel serving disabled veterans of the Israeli armed forces.

Col. Katriel Salmon, chief Israel military attache here, presented Mr. Klutznick with a certificate of inscription of his name in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem. He made the award on behalf of the rehabilitation department of the manpower division of the Israel Ministry of Defense. Mr. Klutznick recently returned from a visit to Israel in the course of which he attended the formal opening ceremony of the rehabilitation center.

While in Washington, Mr. Klutznick reported to George V. Allen, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, on his trip. He did not elaborate to the press on the details of his meeting with Mr. Allen.

PERON PAYS VISIT TO JEWISH ENTERPRISE; LAUDS JEWISH FAMILY

BUENOS AIRES, May 25. (JTA) -- President Juan Peron, accompanied by aides and Maj. Carlos Aloe, Governor of Buenos Aires Province, visited today a textile mill here owned by Levin Brothers, a prominent Jewish family. After touring the plant and speaking with representatives of the 3,000 workers in the mill, the President declared: "I wish we had many Levins."

The Levin family, long active in Zionist, welfare and Jewish cultural affairs, took over the mill several years ago when it was in danger of going out of business. The plant is now equipped with some of the most modern machinery in the industry.