



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16. N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republiation only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXII No. 103 - 37th year

SHEVUOTH ISSUE

ISRAEL ORCHESTRA PLAYS FOR POPE PIUS XII IN HISTORIC CONCERT

ROME, May 26. (JTA) -- At 10 A. M. today the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra gave a private concert for Pope Pius XII in the Vatican's consistory hall. This was the first time that any orchestra from abroad had played privately for Pope Pius and only one Italian orchestra, that of Turin, had previously performed for him.

Conductor Paul Kletzky had requested that on the Israel orchestra's first tour of Italy it be allowed to perform for the Pope as a gesture of gratitude for the help which the Roman Catholic Church gave to all persons persecuted by the Nazis and Fascists. The Vatican accepted promptly.

When the Pope entered the large consistory hall, accompanied by two Cardinals, he raised his hands in blessing over the orchestra which was standing in silence. Mr. Kletzky then asked permission to play and, when he received it, announced that the orchestra would play the second movement of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. Beethoven is one of the Pope's favorite composers.

When the last note died away, the Pope applauded and smilingly thanked Mr. Kletzky, declaring: "It was marvelous playing. What wonderful artists. It is not you who must thank me for this audience, but it is for me to thank you for the pleasure you have given me. I pray to God every day that such cruelties as happened should never happen again." Then he asked God's blessing for the members of the orchestra and their families.

Concertmaster Henry Haftel thanked the Pope for the opportunity of playing for him and added that "the Jewish people are happy to express through music their gratitude for the help the Church gave to persecuted people. Our orchestra is composed of musicians from 14 countries, most of them have suffered persecution," he pointed out.

Replying, the Pope said that he was happy that from so much evil such an instrument of artistic creation was born. He recalled that Arturo Toscanini was instrumental in the creation of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and had conducted its inaugural concert in Israel. At the close of the audience, Pope Pius presented medals with his likeness to the conductor and concertmaster.

SYRIAN PREMIER, FOREIGN MINISTER INCITE POPULATION AGAINST ISRAEL

LONDON, May 26. (JTA) -- Premier Sabri Al-Asali and Foreign Minister Khalid Al-Azn. of Syria, in a joint statement referred to Israel today as "the real and number one enemy of the Arab nation." The statement was broadcast over Radio Damascus.

"We find it necessary to declare that the policy which we pursue for achieving complete Arab unity is the only earnest policy which will lead the Arab nation to its national objectives. Any other policy will result in diverting their attention from Israel, the real and number one enemy of the Arab nation," the statement said. It called for "adoption of practical measures against the Israel danger."

(Anti-Israel propaganda charging atrocities by Israelis against the Arabs was distributed in Stockholm today by Egyptian seamen aboard the Egyptian naval training ship Al Mahroussa which arrived on a "goodwill" tour of Sweden ports. Hundreds of Swedish visitors came aboard to inspect the ship and as they were leaving they were handed anti-Israel, anti-Jewish pamphlets entitled "The Story of Zionist Espionage in Egypt.")

Egypt Considers New War Against Israel an "Active Possibility"

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., May 26. (JTA) -- A "second round" of Arab war against Israel is frankly threatened, while Arab use of the weapons of economic boycott, blockade and threats of war as means to force Israel into costly military expenditures are candidly acknowledged, in the latest issue of "The Egyptian Economic and Political Review" received here from Cairo today. The publication is a quasi-official propaganda mouthpiece circulated among diplomats here.

Israel's existence is accepted, with rare candor for an Arab organ, as "an established fact." However, the Review sees possibilities for making trouble, saying that "the second round, which cannot be eliminated and must still be considered as an active possibility compels the Israelis to maintain a state of military preparedness which can hardly be called cheap."

SENATE COMMITTEE VOTES AID BILL; \$30,000,000 SEEN AS ISRAEL AID

WASHINGTON, May 26. (JTA) -- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee late today approved by a vote of 13 to two a \$3,408,000,000 foreign aid bill that included an estimated \$30,000,000 in economic assistance for Israel in the fiscal year of 1956.

The measure contained funds to continue assistance for another year. Chairman Walter F. George, Georgia Democrat, said the committee voted the same amount of new money as asked by the President plus a re-authorization of certain types of military aid for Europe. It is expected that the bill will be debated on the Senate floor next week.

EISENHOWER TO SEND REFUGEE ACT REVISIONS TO CONGRESS TODAY

WASHINGTON, May 26. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower will send a special message to Congress tomorrow urging liberalization of the Refugee Relief Act of 1953.

Presidential Press Secretary James Haggerty made known late today that the President's long-awaited message will propose ten specific amendments to the controversial act. Mr. Haggerty declined to provide any detail in advance of the delivery of the message. He said the President and other Administration officials had been working for some time on the proposed amendments.

As of last month only about 1,000 persons were actually admitted under the Act, which called for admission of 214,000 by December 31, 1956.

AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT TO CONSIDER LAW AFFECTING HEIRLESS PROPERTY

VIENNA, May 26. (JTA) -- The Austrian Parliament will soon begin consideration of the Austrian Fifth Restitution Law, which has been in the works since 1952, and which would set up an heirless property fund to administer the assets of Nazi victims who left no heirs, it was learned today. There is no doubt here but that the measure will be accepted since the Austrian state treaty obligates Austria to take such action.

Meanwhile, Austrian Jewish leaders who attended the meeting of the Jewish Claims Committee in Paris last week-end, confirm reports that Jewish negotiators will re-open talks with Austrian experts next month.

Addressing Parliament, Chancellor Julius Raab said that some 160 estates confiscated from Nazi organizations after the liberation and some similar state-administered funds would probably be "returned." Since the organizations were dissolved nobody understands to whom these properties will be returned.

PROSECUTOR ASKS ACQUITTAL OF NAZI WHO SUPPLIED GAS TO KILL JEWS

FRANKFURT, May 26. (JTA) -- Even the prosecutor at the trial of Dr. Gerhard Peters, Nazi manufacturer of "Zyklon B," a cyanide gas used to murder hundreds of thousands of Jews and others at the Auschwitz death camp, has asked the court to acquit the unrepentant Nazi. Throughout the ten-day trial, which is now taking place here, prosecutor Konrad Halama has behaved in a strikingly listless manner.

Although six different German courts have found Peters guilty of being a deliberate accessory in the murder of at least 300,000 persons, Dr. Halama based his summation today upon the "lack of unassailable proof" that vast quantities of "Zyklon B" crystals shipped to Auschwitz were actually used in gassing the victims. He did not offer any substitute version of how the victims were gassed.

Dr. Halama accepted the labored defense contention that the S.S. officer in charge of cyanide procurement, who had told Peters that the poison was being used on human beings not on vermin as officially listed, might have destroyed Peters' shipments or used them as disinfectants. This contention was based on the knowledge that the S.S. officer, Lt. Col. Kurt Gerstein, was known to have suffered qualms of conscience about what he was doing. Gerstein committed suicide in 1945.

Before committing suicide in a French jail, he handed to an American intelligence unit some of the documents that now play a role in the trial, notably bills of lading used in the shipment to Auschwitz of "Zyklon B" poison gas from Peters' firm.

Germany's Top Protestant Clergymen Testify at Trial

During the trial, Bishop Otto Dibelius of Berlin and Brandenburg, chairman of the Council of the German Evangelical Church and the senior Protestant churchman in West and East Germany, testified that he had known Gerstein from pre-Hitler religious youth movement as a talented organizer with a "peculiarly romantic strain." In 1942 Gerstein had come to him one night "in obvious agitation" to inform him of the mass killings with their concomitant monstrous brutalities and pleading that the Bishop use his ecclesiastical connections to alert world public opinion. Dr. Dibelius, now a vice-president of the World Council of Churches, failed to say what steps, if any, he did take.

Testimony about similar visits by the distraught Gerstein was given to the court by the president of the Protestant Church in Hesse, the Rev. Martin Niemöller, and by Darmstadt minister Herbert Mochalski who, while Niemöller was imprisoned in concentration camps, occupied the deserted pulpit of Niemöller's Berlin church.

DUTCH BANKER SENTENCED FOR HELPING NAZIS GET JEWISH ASSETS

THE HAGUE, May 26. (JTA) -- An Amsterdam court sentenced Otto Rebholz, one-time Dutch banker and now a German citizen, to five years' imprisonment upon his conviction in absentia of charges of collaborating with the Nazi occupation forces through the manipulation of Dutch Jewish assets amounting to millions of guilders.

The court deducted from the sentence three years which Rebholz had spent in detention before his trial. The ex-banker, a fugitive from Holland, is currently living in Lichtenstein.

SWEDISH ANTI-SEMITITE WINS CASE IN HIGHER COURT; APPEALED FINE

LONDON, May 26. (JTA) -- A fine of 400 Swedish crowns imposed recently on Einar Aberg, notorious publisher of anti-Semitic literature, by the Stockholm District Court, has been set aside by a higher Swedish court, according to a report by the World Jewish Congress.

Aberg had been fined on charges of disseminating printed material without a note as to the printer, place of publication, or date of production, as required by Swedish law. While the higher court found that Aberg had not complied with Swedish legal provisions, it expressed doubt that these applied since the pamphlets "had not been produced for distribution in Sweden."

TURKEY ASKED TO EASE ELECTION REGULATIONS FOR JEWISH BODIES

ISTANBUL, May 26. (JTA) -- The Grand Rabbinate of Turkey has made representations to the government to ease the requirements of a recent regulation for the election of councils for each synagogue and Jewish institution. The regulation, which affects all minorities in Turkey, changed the older system of electing community councils for an area and including within the council that area's religious cultural and welfare institutions.

A delegation composed of Chief Rabbi Raphael Saban and Ben Zion Gallin, vice-president of the lay community council of Istanbul, called on Fahrettin K. Gokay, Governor of Istanbul, to urge him to use his good offices to have the regulation changed. The delegation pointed out to the Governor that changes in the population--by emigration and the shift to suburban areas--have left many synagogues with exceedingly small or non-existent congregations, making elections difficult and meaningless.

Subsequently, Mr. Gallin went to Ankara to confer with government officials on the regulation. This week, elections in the Ashkenazi community and in the Istanbul suburb of Balat were voided by the government because they were held under the old system.

RIO MAYOR VETOES DECISION TO NAME STREET AFTER DR. HERZL

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 26. (JTA) -- A storm of protest in the Brazilian press and in the municipal administration of this capital city followed the refusal of Mayor Alim Pedro to implement a decision of the city council to name a street for Dr. Theodor Herzl. Mayor Pedro, who is of Lebanese descent, vetoed the city council decision, asserting that Dr. Herzl is "an unknown name."

The decision by the council to name the street was taken last October 21 on the motion of Raimundo Magalhaes, a Socialist member of the council and a popular Brazilian writer, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Dr. Herzl's death.

The Mayor's action was sharply criticized at a meeting of the council and Councilman Margalhaes was joined by Councilman Levy Neves, who had been president of the Council at the time the Herzl resolution was adopted, in a demand that the Mayor rescind his veto. The press charged the Mayor with bringing anti-Semitism into city affairs.

32 JEWS TO RECEIVE COMMISSIONS FROM MILITARY AND NAVAL ACADEMIES

NEW YORK, May 26. (JTA) -- Two Jewish midshipmen will be commissioned as ensigns in the United States Coast Guard when the 1955 class at the Coast Guard Academy graduates tomorrow, the National Jewish Welfare Board announced here today. Ten Jewish midshipmen will be commissioned ensigns in the Naval Reserve August 5 when they graduate from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y.

Ten Jewish midshipmen will be commissioned ensigns at Annapolis when the 1955 graduating class at the Naval Academy is commissioned June 3, the JWB announcement said. Another ten Jews will be commissioned Second Lieutenants June 5 when the 1955 class at West Point is graduated. The JWB will present a Bible to each of the new Jewish officers in the four services.

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY PASSES BILL CREATING F.E.P. COMMISSION

LOS ANGELES, May 26. (JTA) -- The California Assembly, meeting in Sacramento, passed a bill creating a Fair Employment Practices Commission. The bill now goes to the Senate where no FEPC measure has ever been reported to the floor.

Former Gov. Earl Warren, now U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice, tried repeatedly to get an FEPC bill passed. Gov. Knight has not called for FEPC legislation.

1. 334 JEWISH IMMIGRANTS ENTERED CANADA IN 1954 C. J. C. REPORTS

MONTREAL, May 26 (JTA) -- A total of 1,334 Jewish immigrants entered Canada via its ocean ports in 1954, the smallest number since 1945 and a 62.8 percent decrease under 1953. It was revealed here today in a report by the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Immigrants of 43 different ethnic groups entered the Dominion in 1954, 29 showing a decrease over the previous year and 14 showing an increase. The largest ethnic groups entering in 1954 were German, English and Italian, in that order.

ALLIED JEWISH APPEAL IN PHILADELPHIA CLOSES; \$3,900,700 RAISED

PHILADELPHIA, May 26. (JTA) -- The Allied Jewish Appeal closed its 1955 drive here with a campaign total of \$3,900,700. Harry S. Syk, general chairman, said that this figure was \$169,700 more than the AJA had raised last year. He pointed out that for the first time in several years the Allied campaign results had shown an improvement over the preceding year.

For his leadership of the 1955 campaign, Mr. Syk was presented with a framed silver circular plaque by Myer Feinstein, president of Allied. A similar plaque in bronze was also presented to Alex F. Stanton, chairman of Allied's Trade Council. In a brief address, Ephraim R. Gomberg, executive director of AJA, paid tribute to the leadership of Allied "which in 17 years has raised more than \$60,000,000 for relief, rescue and rehabilitation, starting in Philadelphia and extending throughout the world."

RABBI BERGER ATTACKS U.S. ZIONISTS IN ARAB RADIO BROADCAST

LONDON, May 26. (JTA) -- Rabbi Elmer Berger, executive director of the American Council for Judaism, who is visiting Syria, attacked American Zionists and Israel in an interview broadcast by the Syrian Radio.

He said "that if the political and nationalistic activities of Zionism continue in the United States, such action will eventually prove detrimental to the relationship between American Jews and Israel, and even between the U.S. Government and Israel."

FIRST SYNAGOGUE TO BE OPENED IN PUERTO RICO; WILL HAVE U.S. RABBI

NEW YORK, May 26. (JTA) -- The first synagogue on the island of Puerto Rico, Congregation Shaari Zedek in San Juan, will be opened soon, the Rabbinical Council of America announced here today. The first rabbi of the new synagogue will be Rabbi Isadore Goodman, a graduate of Yeshiva University, who will be installed by Rabbi David B. Hollander, president of the Rabbinical Council.

The name of the congregation is derived from a congregation destroyed in Germany by the Nazis. The Jewish community of Puerto Rico, which in 1952 was only 25 families, now numbers more than 200 families.

ISRAEL WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD FROM U.S. HOME FASHION LEAGUE

WASHINGTON, May 26. (JTA) -- The National Home Fashions League today presented its 1955 International Award to Israel as this year's choice as "the country which has contributed most to the home furnishings field." The League is the nation's leading organization of women active professionally in home furnishings.

Mrs. David D. Gearhart, on behalf of the League, made the presentation to Mrs. Abba Eban, wife of the Israel Ambassador, at a luncheon. Mrs. Gearhart announced that Israel was selected this year because of "its magnificent achievement in creating a contemporary arts, crafts and furnishings industry which blends Biblical inspiration and functional design." Japan was the recipient of last year's prize.

HARRY GREENSTEIN HONORED BY JEWISH WAR VETERANS; GETS MEDAL

BALTIMORE, May 26. (JTA) -- More than 400 veterans of three wars, as well as communal leaders, paid tribute here to Harry Greenstein, executive director of the Associated Jewish Charities, on the occasion of the award to him of the Distinguished Service Medal of the Maryland Department of the Jewish War Veterans.

Sen. Lehman, addressing the guests at the affair, said that Mr. Greenstein was a "real friend of hundreds of thousands and even millions of people. The lives that were saved by UNRRA were saved in no small measure by Harry Greenstein's brilliant work."

MILWAUKEE JEWISH WELFARE FUND NAMES ZARET AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MILWAUKEE, May 26. (JTA) -- Melvin S. Zaret, 28, has been elected executive director of the Milwaukee Jewish Welfare Fund. It was announced here today by the fund's board of directors. Mr. Zaret, who takes over his duties on July 1, succeeds Elkan C. Voorsanger, who held the post 17 years.

MEMORIAL MEETING FOR PROF. EINSTEIN HELD IN HAVANA

HAVANA, May 26. (JTA) -- A memorial meeting for the late Dr. Albert Einstein was held here last night under the auspices of the Jewish Cuban Cultural Club. The meeting was addressed by prominent Cuban and Jewish speakers.