



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXIII No 3 - 38th year Thursday, January 5, 1956

U. S. MAPPING DECISIONS ON MIDDLE EAST; BYROADE ARRIVES FOR TALKS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Henry A. Byroade, United States Ambassador to Egypt, arrived here today from Cairo to report to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and to President Eisenhower on Middle East problems connected with the forthcoming talks between the President and British Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden.

State Department sources indicated that Mr. Byroade's report will figure in policy decisions to be taken here on Middle East issues, probably including Israel's bid for American arms. It was learned that Mr. Byroade has urged the State Department to reject Israel's request for arms, maintaining that U. S. action favorable to Israel would lessen Middle East peace prospects and worsen American relations with Egypt.

A State Department spokesman today said that Israel's arms list remains "under study." He was asked about the "1956 status" of Israel's request to purchase arms from this country, and replied that no decision has been made. In official circles it was indicated that Israel may not receive all the arms it asked, either in quantity or kind, and that any equipment sold to Israel probably will be parceled out at a slow rate.

TWO-DAY CONFERENCE OF BRITISH ENVOYS IN MIDDLE EAST OPENS IN LONDON

LONDON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- A two-day conference of ranking British diplomats stationed in eight Middle East countries was opened here today by Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd who summoned the envoys to London in connection with current developments in the Middle East.

Also attending the secret conference are Lord Reading and Anthony Nutting, Ministers of State for Foreign Affairs and foreign policy spokesmen for the government in the House of Lords and Commons, respectively. Among those reporting at the conference are the British Ambassadors to Israel, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

It is understood that high in priority among the subjects which will be discussed is the Middle East arms supply situation and the prospects of an Israel-Arab settlement. Official circles insist that this is a "no agenda" conference. They deny press reports that J. W. Nicholas, Ambassador to Israel, will report on the prospects of bringing Israel to secret mediation talks. It is understood that the British failure to force Jordan into the Baghdad pact and the situation in Egypt will also be debated.

Official circles indicate that none of the ambassadors will offer proposals at the conference for dealing with the Middle East situation. These will be decisions made by the new Foreign Secretary after the reports by the envoys and after his meeting with his American opposite number, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, within the framework of the Eisenhower-Eden meetings in Washington beginning January 31.

Eden to Sail for U. S. to Discuss Middle East with Eisenhower

LONDON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The White Paper on Britain's supply of arms to Middle East states which the Cabinet decided yesterday to issue, will probably be published just before the House of Commons reconvenes January 24. A debate on the White Paper, however, is not expected before late in February. Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden and Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd sail for the United States for the Eisenhower-Eden meeting on January 25, and the Labor Party leaders refuse to agree to a Parliamentary debate on the White Paper in the absence of the Prime Minister and Mr. Lloyd.

Meanwhile, it was learned that yesterday's Cabinet meeting discussed not only the issuance of a White Paper, but also whether to attempt to strengthen the Tripartite Declaration of 1950. The government has steadfastly held to the position that the Declaration as it stands is as complete a guarantee as possible against aggression in the Middle East. In the face of new demands by Hugh Gaitskell, head of the Labor Party and in view of the high degree of tension in the Middle East, however, the Cabinet discussed the desirability of a new form of guarantee. This is one of the points expected to be raised by Sir Anthony with Mr. Eisenhower at their meetings.

The British Government's statement about the export of surplus war material was called unsatisfactory by Mr. Gaitskell and a number of British newspapers. Mr. Gaitskell renewed his insistence upon a Parliamentary debate on arms shipments before Mr. Eden departs for the U. S.

DR. GOLDMANN WARNS U.S. TO CHECK ARAB-ISRAEL WAR POSSIBILITY

NEW YORK, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency, who has just returned from an on-the-spot study in Israel, warned today that unless the West takes steps to check the present explosive situation in the Middle East resulting from Soviet arming of the Arab states, the Arab-Israel conflict might explode into war.

He charged that the most recent statement by Soviet "boss" Nikita Khrushchev "makes it clear that the Soviet Union is aligned with the Arab states." He described the position of Britain as "clearly unfriendly to Israel," and the U.S., while considerably and patently friendlier, as lacking in policy while "time is running short."

Dr. Goldmann warned that "if the balance of strength between Israel and the Arab states" is not preserved by firm American action, "the extremists in Arab states, emboldened by their arm superiority, may be induced to attempt to attack and destroy Israel, and as a consequence of frustration, alarm and despair, a frame of mind might develop among some in Israel towards fighting it out before the Arabs have established absolute and formidable superiority." As of today, however, "no responsible leader in Israel, and no one in the government of Israel, entertains the alternative of a preventive war which could only lead to catastrophe for all," he stressed.

The Jewish Agency leader announced that 16 major Jewish organizations have convened a conference in Washington for January 17-18 to consider the Middle East situation. "The security of Israel is intimately tied to the cause of the free world," he asserted. Dr. Goldmann described as "the only alternative, the provision of U.S. arms to Israel to maintain the status quo in strength and American guarantees of the security and defense of Israel against aggression."

Urges U.S. to Provide Arms and Security Pact for Israel

Dr. Goldmann said he found the state of mind in Israel tense, determined, but not desperate. "The leaders and the man in the street realize fully the gravity of Russia's intrusion into the Middle East and the ominous implications of the arming of Egypt, and possibly other Arab states, by the Soviet bloc," he stated. Should this situation remain unchecked and unaltered, it would destroy the balance of strength between Israel and the Arab states and present a war danger, he warned. He said that "Israel, confident in the basic humanity and concern for peace in the Western world, is still hopeful that the Western powers and primarily the U.S.A. will take firm measures to preserve the balance of strength and to guarantee the stability and security of the area of which Israel is an indigenous part."

"Unfortunately," he continued, "several months have passed since the Egyptian-Czechoslovak arms contract was signed. Arms have already been delivered, and yet there is no evidence of a clear and affirmative policy by the Western powers. Britain has assumed a position that is clearly unfriendly to Israel, while the U.S., considerably and patently friendlier, has not yet determined what its policy should be in reaction to Russia's intrusion in the Middle East and in order to secure peace in the region. Time is running short--that is my main impression of my visit to Israel."

"Our government cannot afford to lose more time before announcing a policy that would indicate to the Arabs that the U.S. will not stand by and see Israel destroyed and that would bolster the confidence and lessen the tensions of Israel," Dr. Goldmann declared. "The only effective way in which Israel's frustration and isolation can be alleviated, and in which the tension, mutual suspicions and fears which pervade the area since the Egyptian-Czechoslovak arms deal was announced, can be eliminated, is by providing Israel with defensive arms and guaranteeing its security by means of a treaty open to all friendly nations ready to avail themselves of such treaty."

Fears Outcome of French Elections May Affect Jew in No. Africa

Dr. Goldmann also touched upon the outcome of the French Parliamentary elections this week. He expressed the fear that as a result of the elections the negotiations between France and the newly established Moroccan cabinet may not progress as speedily as expected. This, he said, may result in a resumption of violence in Morocco, which in turn may affect the Jewish population, as it did last year before quiet was restored in that country.

The Jewish Agency chairman said that 80,000 Moroccan Jews have so far registered for immigration to Israel and that more want to register because of growing economic difficulties in the country and uncertainty of the future for the Jews there. However, the Jewish Agency is not encouraging any further registration because it would take two years to bring out even those Jews already registered, unless more funds are raised urgently by American Jewry, through the United Jewish Appeal, to bring into Israel the maximum number of North African Jews in the shortest possible time.

"Unstable conditions in North Africa have made even more unbearable than ever the difficult position of large sections of North African Jewry that have for centuries lived in misery," Dr. Goldmann stressed. "For tens of thousands of North African Jews their economic salvation and their redemption as useful humans lies in their emigration to Israel. The absorption of these Jews imposes heavy financial burdens on the economy of Israel. While we acknowledge and appreciate the assurances of Moroccan leaders that the Jewish population will be accorded full equality, we are painfully aware that for a

large segment of these Jews there is little possibility of rehabilitation in North Africa. The Jewish community the world over and especially the American Jewish community will have to assume directly in the years ahead the responsibility for transferring them to Israel and help Israel in its efforts to accept them," he stated.

COMMUNIST CHINESE PREMIER PARROTS KHRUSCHEV'S ANTI-ISRAEL CHARGES

LONDON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Premier Chou En-Lai of Communist China parroted today the allegations by Nikita Khrushchev, leader of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union, that Israel is creating tension in the Middle East.

Receiving a group of Egyptian newspapermen who are visiting Communist China, the Premier said that "imperialistic powers are using Israel to increase tension in the Middle East through increase of Israeli influence." He emphasized that his country sympathizes with the Arab refugees and assured the Egyptian journalists that China supports the Arab states "in their efforts to realize their independence and integrity."

NATIONALISTS IN TUNISIA ADVOCATE EQUALITY FOR JEWS IN ELECTIONS

TUNIS, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- There must be no discrimination between Tunisian Moslems and Jews in the elections for the Tunisian legislature next March, the Neo-Destour (nationalist) French-language newspaper "L'Action" declared today.

In the same editorial, "L'Action" suggested that to guarantee proper representation for an ethnic group of great importance to Tunisia an invitation might be extended to the Jews, if they wished, to be represented in the electoral college. The newspaper dwelt on the importance of having independent opinion represented in the legislature and stated that the entire question of independent, as well as party representation was currently under study by the government.

MUNICH DISTRICT ATTORNEY REJECTS PLEA TO RELEASE DR. OHRENSTEIN

MUNICH, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The District Attorney of Munich has turned down a plea for the release of Dr. Aron Ohrenstein, onetime Chief Rabbi of Bavaria, who was arrested at the airport here two weeks ago as he was about to board a plane for a one-day business trip to Zurich. He was picked up as a possible fugitive, because at the time he was free, on bail in an appeal against a one-year prison sentence.

Dr. Ohrenstein's original conviction, on charges of fraud in certifying applications for indemnification of Nazi victims, came in 1952 and has twice been before the German Supreme Court, each time resulting in an unfavorable decision. He has instituted action in preparation for a new appeal to the Supreme Court.

Dr. Philip Auerbach, one-time Bavarian Commissioner for Persecutees, who committed suicide, had also been charged with fraudulent certification of signatures in the case that led to Dr. Ohrenstein's conviction. However, a German court completely exonerated and acquitted him of this count.

BERLIN JEWS HONOR MEMORY OF PRELATE WHO DEFIED NAZI ANTI-SEMITISM

BERLIN, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The memory of Prelate Lichtenberg, provost of a Catholic cathedral in Berlin, who went to jail under the Nazis and later perished in the Dachau concentration camp because he prayed publicly "for the persecuted Jews," was honored today by the Jewish community here in a letter sent to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Berlin.

Prelate Lichtenberg, profoundly shaken by the pogroms and synagogue burnings in November 1938 pronounced--alone of all the clergymen in Germany--during services: "And now let us pray for the persecuted non-Aryan Christians and for the persecuted Jews!" Gallantly, he also countered anti-Jewish incitement by the Nazi Party with a call to the faithful "not to be led astray and to remember the Commandment that Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

He made it a regular practice to offer public prayers on behalf of the Jews, but it was 1941 before the Nazis dared to arrest the widely beloved priest. The following year, after telling a Nazi court that he stood by his utterances, he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for "abuse of the pulpit and malicious attacks upon the state."

Knowing that the Gestapo would not let him return to his parish, he offered to leave Berlin and to enter the Lodz ghetto "there to render spiritual assistance to the Jews and to share their suffering." He pleaded with the then Roman Catholic Bishop of Berlin, Cardinal Count Preysing, to secure the Pope's approval. As the end of his sentence approached, he again sought to prevail upon the Nazi authorities to let him go to Lodz.

The Nazis did not release him when his jail sentence was concluded. Instead, they shipped him to Dachau concentration camp. Wracked by sickness as he was, his body could not stand the rigors of the transport. He succumbed upon arrival at the camp.

The Community, in its letter, thanked the Catholic Church in the name of Jews and Nazi victims. Paying tribute to the memory of Father Lichtenberg, it expressed the hope that the ideals of this heroic churchman would remain alive.

CANADIAN JEW NAMED DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA IN ENGLAND

OTTAWA, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Sydney Pierce, son of veteran Canadian Zionist Asher Pierce, has been appointed by the government as Deputy High Commissioner for Canada in Great Britain. His last post was as Ambassador to Brazil. Mr. Pierce, who is 54, was born in Montreal, started his career in journalism, and has held Canadian diplomatic posts in Mexico and in Washington.

TEACHERS UNION PROTESTS INJECTION OF RELIGION IN NEW YORK SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The Teachers Union today protested the statement on "Moral and Spiritual Values and the Schools," prepared by the New York Board of Superintendents as a guiding statement for use in the public schools of this city. Some weeks ago the statement was returned for redrafting to the superintendents by the Board of Education after protests by the New York Board of Rabbis, some Protestant groups, the Teachers Guild and other groups, which objected that the statement would violate the American tradition of separation of church and state.

The Teachers Union, meanwhile, has also protested the issuance by the Board of Education of a curriculum bulletin which includes a sentence that "belief in God and the place of religion in the life of the child are essential factors underlying the school program." Still another group, the United Parents Association, has protested the distribution of a New York State Board of Regents pamphlet similar to the policy statement of the Board of Superintendents which was withdrawn.

N. Y. STATE BODY OPPOSES RELIGIOUS QUOTA SYSTEM FOR PROBATION OFFICERS

NEW YORK, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The State Probation Commission has adopted a resolution opposing the use of a religious quota system in the hiring of probation officers for the Domestic Relations Court, it was announced today by Charles D. Osborne, its chairman. The original protest against this system was filed by the American Jewish Congress, which has a suit pending before the State Commission Against Discrimination.

The practice in the Children's Court, a division of the Domestic Relations Court, has been to refer children coming under the court's jurisdiction to probation officers of the same faith as the children involved. Since juvenile case loads broke down to 50 percent Catholics, 45 percent Protestants and five percent Jews, the probation officers were hired in a similar proportion. This practice the AJC opposed as discriminatory.

TWO AMERICAN SCHOLARS WIN NEWMAN PRIZES FOR WORKS IN HEBREW

NEW YORK, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The winners of the first two Newman Prizes for scholarly works in Hebrew in this country were announced here today. The winners, both of whom will receive prizes of \$500, are Dr. Abraham Katsh, head of the Department of Hebrew at New York University, and Dr. Shlomo Eidelberg, a lecturer at Yeshiva University.

Dr. Katsh received the prize for his manuscript, "Hareka Hayehudi Betorat Haislam" (The Jewish Background of the Islamic Faith), while Dr. Eidelberg's award was granted for his manuscript, "Tshuvot Rabbenu Gershom Mebr Hagolah" (The Responses of Rabbi Gershom, the Light of the Diaspora), a study in medieval Jewish history in France and Germany.

The prizes, established by Morris B. Newman, are intended to encourage Hebrew scholarship in the United States by rendering assistance in the publication of important manuscripts. The first awards were announced by Dr. Samuel M. Mirsky, president of the Hebrew Academy of the Histadruth Ivrit. At the same time, he announced that the first issue of the Academy's new publication, "Prakim," would appear shortly.

ISRAEL TO RECEIVE 2,200,000 POUNDS OF BUTTER FROM UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Israel will receive 2,200,000 pounds of butter from the United States under an authorization issued today by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Delivery will be made not later than April 30.

The Department of Agriculture announced that its authorization enables Israel to purchase up to \$900,000 worth of butter under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954. Details of the agreement with Israel were first announced last November when it was agreed to sell Israel about \$17,000,000 worth of U. S. surplus agricultural commodities.

NEW YORK GROUPS TO SUBMIT PETITION TO EISENHOWER ON ISRAEL'S SECURITY

NEW YORK, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- A Citizens Committee for the Security of Israel has been formed here by Jewish and non-Jewish civic leaders of this city, it was announced here today by Alexander G. Hesterberg, chairman of the group. The committee, which has already obtained 10,000 signatures on a petition to President Eisenhower to "take immediate steps to grant arms to Israel and prevent the nation from being overrun by Communist aggression," plans to obtain an additional 20,000 signatures in the next five weeks.