



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXIII No. 12 - 38th year

Wednesday, January 18, 1956

ISRAEL ASKS U. N. TO END "ACCEPTANCE" OF ARAB BELLIGERENCY

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 17. (JTA) -- Castigated by every one of the eleven members of the United Nations Security Council for the use of force against Syrian troops in the Lake Tiberias region last December 11, Israel replied today with a challenge to the world body to abandon its practice of 'accepting Arab belligerency with indulgence and of insisting that Israel should never hit back.'

Israel's plea to the Council for understanding and sympathy instead of condemnation followed British submission of an amendment to the tripartite draft resolution condemning Israel, the effect of which was to remove all onus from Syria for provoking the incident. The amendment, as submitted by Sir Pierson Dixon, softened the draft resolution's reference to Syrian interference with Israel's rights on Lake Tiberias by holding that "this interference in no way justifies the Israeli action."

Abba S. Eban, head of the Israel delegation, presented the Israel viewpoint after Ahmed Shukairy of Syria renewed his demand for expulsion of Israel from the United Nations and the imposition of sanctions. Shukairy, who paid glowing tribute to the Soviet Union, called on all members of the United Nations to withhold economic aid from Israel and proposed that the Security Council appoint a special committee to study the problem of compensation. The Council adjourned until tomorrow afternoon and it was understood that efforts would be made in the interim to secure agreement of the Soviet Union and Syria to the tripartite draft resolution as amended today.

Mr. Eban, making no denials with regard to the Lake Tiberias incident, told the Council that his government had the choice of resisting the aggressive threat openly maintained by Syria or abandoning its sovereignty and rights. He reminded the Council that "the United Nations has not been able to offer Israel the minimal daily security enjoyed by everyone of its other 75 members in nearly every sector of their national lives."

"We know," he added, "that Israel is most popular when she does not hit back, and world opinion is profoundly important to us. A practice has grown up of accepting Arab belligerency with indulgence and of insisting only that Israel should never hit back. It is our apprehension that more influence is used to prevent Israel's reactions than is exercised to prevent the provocations that give rise to them." He added that Israel felt entitled to receive from the Council "a greater volume of understanding than we have received."

Mr. Eban rejected proposals that Israel offer compensation, pointing out that in the absence of compensation to Israel victims of Arab attacks, such reparations would be an "affront." The tripartite resolution, he declared, contained expressions of condemnation and warnings "wholly disproportionate to the actions to which they refer." The Soviet resolution, he noted, did not even "make any claim to objectivity."

EBAN URGES SPEEDY U.S. ARMS TO AVERT WAR THIS SUMMER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- Five hundred delegates to the emergency conference on Israel convoked by the presidents of 17 American Jewish organizations were told tonight by Ambassador Abba S. Eban that "it is of paramount urgency that Israel's defenses be strengthened, especially in the air, in order to maintain her basic military deterrent and thus preclude a conflict in the Summer of this year."

The delegates were warned by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency, that there is "no probability that either the United States or France will soon send arms to Israel." Dr. Goldmann declared that "the shapers of American policy are men of goodwill and honest intent, but, unfortunately, they have vacillated too long, they have lacked determination, they have surrendered to hesitation and it is up to the American people now to instruct them in the course of strong and fearless action. If the American people wills it, the State Department will do its will." He stressed that "we must not confound consideration of Israel's request for arms with the meeting of this request."

Dr. Goldmann condemned as "moral hypocrisy" a policy of withholding aid to Israel because an "alarmed people" had not acted with "sober judgment, sweet reason and psychological restraint." He affirmed that "I, for one, shall not presume to pass judgment on Israel's actions, even on such action that has been described as detrimental to Israel's own interests and complicating a dangerous situation."

"But I do know," he continued, "and I state this without equivocation or qualification: that to cite such action as an excuse for further delay of Israel's request for arms and a security guaranty, is to season diplomacy with moral hypocrisy and to court peril. We can no more afford to ignore the psychological temper of the Israel people than we can afford to ignore the psychological temper of the Arab people."

In a reference to views expressed by the State Department sources in the past, Dr. Goldmann said that "some people in the State Department are preoccupied day and night, with Nasser's mood, Salem's whims and the vagaries of the Arab public. I do not criticize them for this preoccupation," he commented, "but they would accrue no harm if they showed also some concern for the mood of Ben Gurion, the feelings of Sharett and the temper of Israel's public opinion. It would be well for the State Department to recall that an important change has occurred in the destiny of a considerable fraction of the Jewish people. The Israelis may die in battle but they will not wait to be massacred."

Should the United States arm Israel, Dr. Goldmann declared, "the Arab States will at once realize that what confronts them is not a cake-walk victory but a senseless and futile arms race. Should America extend security guarantees to Israel, the Arab states would be forced to realize that their hope of destroying Israel is a dangerous illusion. It is at this point that they would be ready to consider peace."

Throughout his address, Ambassador Eban returned again and again to the urgency and primacy of arms for the defense of Israel. "Amongst all our objectives, the attainment of additional arms for our defense claims overriding and paramount urgency. If we fail in this, we may have failed in everything, for we shall not have the respite or the stability of heart with which to explore any more leisurely path towards safety."

Referring to Israel's requests for arms from the United States and the other Western Powers, Mr. Eban said that "we dare not believe that our requests for this moderate reinforcement will be left without early response. We cannot allow ourselves to conceive that there are friendly governments which positively desire Israel to lie, naked and exposed, at the mercy of its adversaries, with its survival hanging on the dubious thread of the Egyptian dictator's condescension."

Security Pact Seen Dispelling War Danger

"We know," he told the conference, "that nothing could be further from the purposes of Western statesmanship than to see us with our hands held behind our backs while our neighbors make ready for a stunning blow to our head and heart. Everything that we believe concerning the chivalry and decency of the free peoples in the West forbids us even to allow such a contingency to cross our minds."

The Israel envoy said the West could do much to dispel war danger by proclaiming, in contractual terms, its determination to resist any change of the existing borders by force. He pointed out that "if the three Western Powers regard their 1950 Tripartite Declaration as a genuine, binding obligation, how can they refuse to give it the form and content relevant to the circumstances of our time and to the contingencies which we face?"

The Ambassador welcomed "any sincere advocacy and pursuit of a peace settlement," but warned that "to say that peace is only possible on the basis of Israel's mutilation is to say that peace is not possible at all." If this is the case, he said, "then it is all the more urgent to ensure the next best objective, the stabilization of military power balance. He said "all who cherish Israel's statehood as the dearest possession of the Jewish people since antiquity should face the coming months in deep solemnity and stern resolution."

U. S. Labor Supports Israel's Position

In a message to the conference, George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations, placed the American labor movement in support of Israel and Israel's appeal for arms.

Mr. Meany said that "AFL-CIO considers recent intervention of Soviet Russia into Middle Eastern affairs grave threat to world peace. We feel America and allies, together, with United Nations, should act to prevent aggression in that area. Positive steps should include mutual defense pacts, economic aid and promotion of friendly relations between Israel and Arab nations based on mutual recognition of each other's existence and territorial integrity."

President Walter P. Reuther of the United Automobile Workers, told the Conference that "the ability of Israel to defend itself must be maintained." He urged that the United States enter a mutual security pact with Israel with adherence open to other nations in the area participating in an overall peace settlement.

Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, who presided at the opening session, said the 17 organizations represented proclaimed with "one voice" that "the imbalance in the Middle East ought to be rectified in terms of arms and in terms of administered rebuke."

Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, charged that Col. Nasser of Egypt is Bulganin's messenger boy in the Middle East just as the Grand Mufti was Hitler's. "Appeasement of tyranny, he warned, "has always proved catastrophic when employed by democracies."

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- The Mapai political committee, augmented by party members in the Cabinet and Parliament, met tonight to discuss the Lavon Plan for putting the country on a war footing in preparation for an expected Arab attack. The plan, drafted by a special committee headed by former Defense Minister Pinchas Lavon, received virtually unanimous approval among party leaders.

Interest in the meeting tonight centered about the composition of the citizens' National Defense Council projected in the Lavon Plan as a body with consultative status with the Premier and Defense Minister. It is understood that the drafters of the plan visualized membership on the council being extended to representatives of all parties as far right as the Herut, as well as to members of the government coalition parties.

The newspaper Maariv reported today that Finance Minister Levi Eshkol will submit a plan to the Cabinet to restrict immigration this year in an effort to divert every possible pound to defense preparations. This plan, the newspaper asserted, has created a stir within the Mapai Party leadership, with some sections insisting that the manpower to be gained from immigration is as important as the money saved by reducing the immigrant flow.

Mr. Eshkol, who will meet tomorrow with Jewish Agency representatives on his plan, according to the newspaper, proposes to cut back immigration from a planned 40,000 to 45,000 in 1956 to a maximum of 20,000. This, he estimates, will save 25 million pounds, to swell an anticipated 50 million pounds to be raised by a special defense tax envisioned in the Lavon Plan.

Government Tightens Controls Over Skilled Manpower

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- The Israel cabinet has approved measures aimed at tightening governmental control over skilled manpower needed by the military or for work in the new settlements. One measure amends the emergency regulations so as to require validation by the Defense Ministry of exit visas for reservists of military age. A second measure amends a 1948 law to give the government authority to mobilize any individual or class for requirements of the Labor Ministry.

A six-man ministerial committee was set up to seek voluntary means to find physicians, nurses, teachers and agricultural instructors for rural communities. If voluntary measures do not succeed, under the amended law the Labor Ministry would be able to draft the necessary personnel.

HISTADRUT EXECUTIVE DECIDES TO PRESS FOR FIVE PERCENT GENERAL INCREASE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- Increases of five percent in basic wages should be granted to Israeli workers, it was decided here this week-end by the executive of Histadrut, the Israel labor federation. The decision followed prolonged discussion and negotiation which necessitated the participation, at one time, of Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, and Minister of Finance Levi Eshkol.

The exact increases for each of the trades will be determined by the federation's Trade Union Department. On the other hand, earlier promises to professionals and certain of the trade unions would now be shelved, and wages in these categories are to be frozen, because of the present emergency. The decision as to whether the new increase should be tied to the cost-of-living index will also be made by the Trade Union Department.

The decision to ask this wage increase pattern was taken by a majority vote in the executive in which the Mapai Party carried over the opposition of all the minority parties which wanted larger increases.

Prior to the adoption of the resolution, Mr. Eshkol warned the Histadrut leaders that "a raise in pay and more bank notes will not raise the standard of living, but will bring inflation." This, he added, might not be felt immediately, but it would be felt in a few months' time. The only way to combat inflation, he asserted, was to increase production and exports.

ISRAEL NEWS BRIEFS

THE HAGUE, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- Israel must have funds with which to restore the military balance, and, with that, peace in the Middle East, President Itzhak Ben-Zvi of Israel said today in a message to a Dutch-Jewish solidarity meeting in Amsterdam.

OTTAWA, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- Lester Pearson, Minister of External Affairs, confirmed today in Parliament that 15 Canadian-built planes had been shipped to Egypt. The planes are Harvard trainers and were shipped from the Canadian Car and Foundry under export license.

LONDON, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- The British Cabinet is meeting today and tomorrow to review Middle East problems in advance of the Eden-Eisenhower meetings in Washington. It approved the draft of a White Paper on surplus arms sales to be issued later this week.

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- A total of 1,169 immigrants arrived at Haifa yesterday. Seventy-four of them came from Communist bloc countries and the remainder from North Africa.

MOROCCAN GOVT. ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR JEWISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CASABLANCA, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- The Moroccan Ministry of Public Instruction assumed responsibility for Jewish religious education in a statement today defining its area of jurisdiction. It announced that Talmudic education will come under the aegis of the Ministry following discussions with Chief Rabbi Saul Dahan who will designate a competent rabbi to direct this area of public education. Talmudic education will be administered by the Ministry's Section for Private Teaching.

The Ministry's statement also referred to Alliance Israelite Universelle schools in Morocco, reporting that the Minister had received the Moroccan delegate of the Alliance. The government grants the Alliance a subsidy because it provides instruction for Jewish children in this country. The statement said that the Minister had praised Alliance educational activity and had promised to "put the question of the education of Jewish youth at the top of his interests."

MOSCOW TO PRINT JEWISH PRAYER BOOK, FIRST SINCE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION

NEW YORK, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- The first Jewish prayer book to be published in the Soviet Union since the Bolshevik revolution will be printed in Moscow next month, the New York Times reported today from the Soviet Capital. The volume, which will include the daily prayers, Sabbath services and abridged versions of Passover, Yom Kippur, and other holiday services, will be financed entirely by voluntary contributions of Soviet Jews, according to the Times. It will be published in an edition of several thousand.

C. J. C. ASKED TO ACT ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN HAMILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HAMILTON, Ontario, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- An appeal to the Canadian Jewish Congress to take "firm measures" regarding religious instruction in the public schools of Ontario in general, and this city in particular, has been voiced by the Hamilton Council of Jewish Organizations. The appeal, in the form of a resolution adopted by the Council, asked the CJC to take "an unequivocal stand in the matter before the proper authorities."

The resolution declared that the Council was mindful of Bible reading and hymn singing in some of the grades "and even more, of the fact that in other grades Ministers of the Gospel enter the classrooms in clerical garb, and with the express permission and encouragement of the school authorities, to teach such religious principles, tenets and doctrines as cannot be accepted by some of the pupils." The Hamilton group asked that "sectarian instruction in any form be removed from the public schools."

WESTERN STATES COMMUNITY DELEGATES ASK U. S. ARMS PACT FOR ISRAEL

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- Citing the "great danger" to Israel of Egypt's massive arms purchases from Czechoslovakia, Jewish community leaders from 18 Western cities have called on the United States Government to "immediately enter into formal treaties with Israel and such of the Arab states as will commit themselves to preserve the peace." The call to the U.S. came in the form of a resolution adopted at a regional conference of the Western States Region of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, embracing 11 states and Western Canada.

The parley further urged the raising of special funds, in addition to the regular campaigns, for an expected immigration of 45,000 North African Jews to Israel in 1956. The delegates also discussed planning for suburban developments and meeting suburban needs through a metropolitan approach. Robert E. Sinton of San Francisco was elected president of the region.

Philip Bernstein, executive director of the CJFWF, told the 250 community leaders that a strong American Jewry was needed to meet overseas responsibilities without sacrificing local needs. He reviewed the complex overseas situation and warned his listeners that American Jews could enjoy security and dignity at home only as there was security and dignity for Jews everywhere.

NOEL ARONOVICI RETIRES AS HEAD OF J. D. C. RECONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

NEW YORK, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- The retirement, after 37 years of uninterrupted service with JDC, of Noel Aronovici, director of the Joint Distribution Committee reconstruction department, was announced today by Moses A. Leavitt, JDC executive vice-chairman. Since the end of World War II Mr. Aronovici has been in charge of a program which aided more than 365,000 men, women and children throughout the world. Succeeding Mr. Aronovici as director of the reconstruction department is Dr. Akiba Kohane.

BERNARD RICHARDS, HEAD OF INFORMATION BUREAU, HONORED AT RECEPTION

NEW YORK, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- Bernard G. Richards, veteran Zionist and chairman of the Jewish Information Bureau, was honored here last night at a reception at Stephen Wise House upon his return from his first visit to Israel. Mr. Richards gave the 200 persons present at the reception the impressions he obtained during his two-month stay in the Jewish State, which he saw for the first time after 50 years of Zionist activity.