



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

360 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXIII No. 20 - 38th year Monday, January 30, 1956

EISENHOWER-EDEN TALKS ON ARAB-ISRAEL PEACE START TODAY IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower and British Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden will start their discussions here tomorrow with the Arab-Israel conflict topping the agenda. The meetings, which are expected to last for about a week, will also be attended by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd and their top advisers.

Prime Minister Eden was reported here today as being primarily interested in seeking a joint Anglo-American sponsored compromise solution on the Arab-Israel dispute. He also wants American action against Saudi Arabia which is currently financing anti-Western activities in Arab countries with royalties received from American oil companies.

Well informed circles indicated today that one of the major plans which the British Prime Minister will present to President Eisenhower provides for an Arab-Israel solution by forcing Israel to make territorial concessions. However, it is learned here that the United States is not ready to support Eden on this point. The American attitude is that Israel should be asked to make border "rectifications" rather than wholesale territorial changes.

(In Israel, Dr. Walter Eytan, director general of the Foreign Ministry declared today that Israel will repel any pressure from the Western powers bloc for political or territorial compromise. He predicted that such pressure will soon be felt, and specifically mentioned the latest, "unclear" British proposals as examples of the kind of pressure he expected. He stressed that Israel still sees direct negotiations with the Arabs as the only solution to the current tense situation in the area.)

The U.S. Government, while anxious for an early Arab-Israel settlement, is also reported to differ with the British on other suggested approaches to a solution of the Arab-Israel problem. However, it is predicted that as a result of the Eisenhower-Eden talks, a renewed British-American pledge guaranteeing the integrity of the Arab-Israel frontiers will be voiced, as well as a warning against aggression either by the Arab countries or by Israel.

Mr. Eden intends also to ask the United States to join the Baghdad Pact, to which Britain and a number of Moslem countries are signatories. However, it was indicated here today that although the U.S. is ready to give military and financial support to all countries joining the Baghdad agreement, it is not inclined to join because the Baghdad alliance excludes Israel from membership. The feeling in official circles here is that Israel would consider Washington's joining the Baghdad Pact an unfriendly act. Egypt, too, would consider America's membership in the Baghdad Pact group as an hostile act, since Egypt is opposed to the pact.

Arab diplomatic representatives in Washington declared today that any effort by Eisenhower and Eden to seek Arab-Israel settlement on a basis of the status quo would not bring peace. They urged the American and the British Governments to "fully consult" the Arab countries before reaching a final decision at their Washington parley.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE ASKS U.S. TO GRANT ISRAEL'S PLEA FOR ARMS

NEW YORK, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee concluded its three-day 49th annual meeting here today with the adoption of a statement on Israel calling for speedy arrangements by the United States to conclude security guarantees applicable to every nation within the Middle East willing to abide by such an agreement. The statement also asked that Israel be permitted to purchase defensive arms in the United States, in order "to protect itself from the threat of war."

The statement outlined four prerequisites for peace in the Middle East area: 1. No change in the status quo by either side through force; 2. Cession of any and every aggressive act on the part of any nation; 3. Withdrawal of economic boycotts, and 4. Elimination of hate propaganda.

The AJC further called on Secretary of State John Foster Dulles to put into immediate effect his proposals for security guarantees and for settlement of the Arab refugee problem. It suggested that the U.S., together with the Western nations and the United Nations,

if possible, press for an immediate settlement in the Middle East and peace. The statement hit Soviet interference in the region, its hostility toward Israel and its espousal of the Arab cause at the UN.

In its resolution on Israel the AJC declared that the military and economic aid offered by the Soviet bloc to the Arab states has increased the military potential of the Arabs which "now poses immediate danger of an outbreak which may jeopardize the peace of the world." It stated that the United States, through economic and technical aid to all people throughout the Middle East, can do much to help raise their standard of living. However, the resolution urged speedy action to solve the Middle East crisis "in view of the large military supplies now being shipped by the Soviet bloc to Egypt and other Arab countries and already received by them."

Concern Expressed Over Mounting Arab Propaganda in U. S.

Deep concern was expressed at the session over the mounting tide of Arab propaganda in the United States directed against American Jews and seeking to foment anti-Semitism in the United States. It was charged that both Arab propagandists and native anti-Semites distributing the material "are trying to undermine the position of American Jews" and are confusing "the tinder-box issue of the Middle East."

Americans were cautioned "to be on guard against Arab propaganda, which seeks to create dissension in American life by putting one American group against another." However, he made a distinction between such divisive propaganda which exploits the Middle East crisis and an honest difference of views on American foreign policy.

Irving Engel, who was re-elected president of the American Jewish Committee for a third term, stated in his presidential address that it is vital to world peace that the Eisenhower-Eden conferences--which begin in Washington tomorrow--go beyond a "mere declaration of hope" for solution of the Middle East crisis. He urged the President and Secretary of State Dulles to utilize the top level meetings "to work out a program of specifics that will frustrate the Russian design, advance the interests of the free world, and effect a just and enduring peace between the Arab states and Israel." He characterized the Middle East crisis as "the world's most highly inflammable tinder box."

In focussing attention on the Arab-Israel dispute, Mr. Engel stated that the conflict in the Middle East is not a Jewish issue but a problem for all Americans. "So long as the Soviets pour arms into the Arab nations, the danger mounts," Mr. Engel stressed. "Arab extremists may be lured into aggression by prospects of an easy victory. Israeli extremists might be driven to preventive war by the counsel of their fears. In a world not always willing to yield to moral suasion alone, what can be done to head off an arms race? Let the United States provide enough arms to Israel to act as a deterrent force against Arab extremists, thereby also curbing Israeli extremists."

Jacob Blaustein, honorary president of the organization, addressing the session, evaluated human rights progress at the last General Assembly of the United Nations in which he participated as one of the members of the United States delegation. He said that he "is by no means satisfied with what has happened thus far in fashioning the covenants of human rights."

"I therefore am inclined to think that voluntary organizations like the American Jewish Committee should continue to press for proper covenants," he stated. "As we know in all these matters, the voluntary organizations have to keep in the forefront with respect to them," he pointed out.

In another resolution adopted at the meeting, the American Jewish Committee charged that "recent Soviet actions reflect continued disregard for human rights" and that mass arrests of Jews and deportations to Siberia "are still going on." The AJC told Soviet leaders that they "should reform their policies toward their religious and ethnic minorities," restoring to Jewish citizens full freedom of worship and the right to reopen schools and conduct their own cultural activities.

Zachariah Shuster, European director of the American Jewish Committee with headquarters in Paris, told the delegates that contrary "to the pious protestations of its leaders, Poujadism is anti-Semitic." There was no doubt that Poujadism has strong fascist colorations," Mr. Shuster stated. "Poujade himself is the son of a militant member of the Action Francaise, the anti-Semitic group headed by the late Charles Maurras. In 1934, Poujade, himself, was a member of the anti-Semitic Dorriot movement; he reported."

U. N. REPORTS ON ARMS PURCHASED BY ISRAEL AND ARAB NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 29. (JTA) -- Israel purchased only \$8,986,000 worth of arms from the western nations during the four-and-a-half year period ending last summer, while \$13,029,000 worth of war materiel was sold by the West during the same period to Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Saudi Arabia. These figures were culled here this week-end from major United Nations economic reports.

The figures do not include various recent large armament deals like the Egyptian-Czechoslovak munitions pact or Britain's shipment of "demilitarized" tanks to Egypt. French arms trade is also excluded from the statistics as well as aircraft shipments of all kinds.

NEW YORK, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- Former President Truman, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Walter Reuther, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations, issued a joint plea last night for an immediate United States treaty with Israel and any Arab state that wanted it, guaranteeing their borders against aggression, and for immediate U.S. supply of defensive arms to Israel to offset Communist arms shipments to Egypt.

The statement was issued by Mrs. Roosevelt at her home here and carried her signature and that of Mr. Truman. Mr. Reuther has approved the statement by telephone and will sign it as soon as it reaches him by mail. Mrs. Roosevelt said the statement was issued in behalf of the three signatories as non-Jewish Americans interested in preserving the peace of the Middle East, and not in behalf of any organization.

The statement called for immediate incorporation of the guarantees of the Tripartite Declaration of 1950 into treaties "offered on equal terms to Israel and the Arab lands. Because of Soviet intervention," it continued, "such treaties can no longer be conditioned on either acceptance by both sides or by mutual agreement in regard to border changes; since conditions would, if imposed, only delay the enactment of treaties that are essential to maintaining peace in this area."

Insisting that the United States "must counteract every effort by the Soviet Union to upset the present precarious balance of power" in the Middle East, the joint statement added: "This requires that the United States should now provide the defensive arms needed by Israel to protect itself against any aggression made possible or incited by the introduction of Communist arms."

It also urged the United States to "make clear that any change in the status quo (in the Middle East) by force will not be recognized or tolerated. It rejected the idea of "gnawing" at or "rolling back" the borders of Israel, underscoring that no part of its present territory was ever part of Egypt or Jordan. Additionally, it declared that Israel "cannot economically or politically afford to admit more than a small number" of Arab refugees and pointed out that there are more than enough suitable areas for the resettlement of the Arab refugees in the Middle East, stressing the United States declared willingness to assist financially such a program.

300 Noted Americans Urge U. S. Government to Give Arms to Israel

NEW YORK, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- More than 300 noted Americans, Jews and non-Jews, yesterday addressed an appeal to the U. S. Government pointing out that Israel is in danger because of "lavish supplies of weapons of destruction" given by Communist countries to Egypt, and asking for American arms for Israel to be given immediately--"before it is too late." The appeal, made public by the American Christian Palestine Committee, also urges the conclusion of an American security pact with Israel.

"We cannot accept the view held by some of our British friends that war can be forestalled or prevented by applying pressures to Israel to yield territory to the Arab states," the appeal says. "We recall the historic failure of the Munich Conference to avert World War II by forcing democratic Czechoslovakia to surrender its territories to Nazi Germany. The appetite of aggressors feeds upon appeasement. We ask our Government to stand firm and support with vigor our sister democracy of Israel.

"As a first step in restoring equilibrium and creating a more favorable climate of stability and peace in the Middle East, which has been deeply disturbed by the supply of Communist arms to Egypt, we appeal to our Government to make available to Israel without delay the legitimate means for its self-defense. We also urge our Government to conclude as soon as possible security treaties with Israel and those of her neighbors who desire peace, guaranteeing their present frontiers against alteration by force. Such measures would clear the way for the Arab states and Israel to negotiate a peace settlement fair to all. Such measures, further, can lead to that renaissance of the spirit so vital to the development of the area's resources, both Israeli and Arab.

"We believe that these positive actions by the United States Government will be welcomed by the overwhelming majority of the American people. In the name of justice, humanity, and America's good name among the nations, we urge our Government to act firmly and decisively before it is too late."

STATE DEPT. IS PRESSURE TO FAVOR ARAB VIEWS DISCLOSED BY TRUMAN

NEW YORK, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- Attempts by the State Department to influence him against favoring the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine--immediately after he became President of the United States--are related by former President Harry Truman in a chapter of his memoirs published yesterday in the New York Times. He also relates how the British Government was "none too happy" with his reaction to the immediate admission in 1945 to Palestine of 100,000 Jewish victims of Nazism "regardless of the effect on the situation in the Middle East which this would have."

"My first official contact with the problem," Mr. Truman writes, "took place within a few days of the time I became President when Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr. had sent me a letter offering to 'brief' me on Palestine before I might be approached

- 4 -

by any interested parties. It was likely, he said, that efforts would soon be made by some of the Zionist leaders to obtain from me some commitments in favor of the Zionist program which was aimed at unlimited Jewish immigration into Palestine and the establishment there of a Jewish State.

Truman "Briefed" by State Department on Roosevelt's Views

"Two weeks later Joseph C. Grew, who in Stettinius' absence was the Acting Secretary of State, sent me a further memorandum on the subject, informing me: 'Although President Roosevelt at times gave expression to views sympathetic to certain Zionist aims, he also gave certain assurances to the Arabs which they regard as definite commitments on our part. On a number of occasions within the past few years, he authorized the department to assure the heads of the different Near East Governments in his behalf that in view of this Government there should be no decision altering the basic situation in Palestine without full consultation with both Arabs and Jews.' In his meeting with King Ibn Saud (of Saudi Arabia) early this year, moreover, Mr. Roosevelt promised the King that as regards Palestine he would make no move hostile to the Arab people and would not assist the Jews as against the Arabs.

"I was fully aware of the Arabs' hostility to Jewish settlement in Palestine, but like many Americans, I was troubled by the plight of the Jewish people in Europe. The Balfour Declaration had always seemed to me to go hand in hand with the noble policies of Woodrow Wilson, especially the principle of self-determination. When I was in the Senate I told my colleagues, Senator Wagner of New York and Senator Taft of Ohio, that I would go along on a resolution putting the Senate on record in favor of the speedy achievement of the Jewish homeland.

"But the State Department's concern was mainly with the question of how the Arabs would react, and that this was the wrong time to raise the Palestine question. In another memorandum, on June, 16, 1945, the Acting Secretary of State said the State Department's view was that Palestine was one of the problems which should come up for settlement after the war through the United Nations organization. The memorandum closed with this well-intended advice on the subject of the likely call on me by Zionist leaders: It does not seem, therefore, that you need go any further, unless you care to do so, than to thank the Zionist leaders for any materials which they may give you and to assure them their views will be given your careful consideration.

"To assure the Arabs that they would be consulted was by no means inconsistent with my generally sympathetic attitude toward Jewish aspirations. It was my belief that world peace would in the long run be best served by a resolution that would accord justice to the needs and the wants of the Jewish people who had so long been persecuted. The acts of extremists in Palestine, whether Jewish or Arab, I condemned and deplored, but I also felt that it was important that some encouragement be given to the Jews who wanted to further their cause by accepted democratic methods. The State Department continued to feel that we should stay out of any activity that might offend the Arabs."

JEWISH MUSIC MONTH STARTED IN MANY COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT U. S.

NEW YORK, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- The 12th annual nationwide month-long Jewish Music Festival began yesterday in synagogues throughout the country. The festival is coordinated by the National Jewish Music Council, which is sponsored by the National Jewish Welfare Board.

This year the festival is dedicated to the music of Ernest Bloch, 75-year-old Jewish composer. Synagogues and temples across the nation held simultaneous performances of Bloch's "Sacred Service" yesterday which was Shabbat Shirrah--the Sabbath of Song. In addition, concerts of Bloch works will be presented by scores of community centers, local Jewish music councils and synagogues. Lectures and exhibits on Jewish music will be featured at various functions.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MEDAL PRESENTED TO OLDEST SYNAGOGUE IN PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- A Franklin medal for distinguished service was presented to Congregation Mikveh Israel here yesterday. The medal, authorized by Congress, is being presented to societies, institutions and enterprises with which Benjamin Franklin was associated as member, founder or sponsor. Presentation of the medal was made by Congressman Hugh Scott.

Mikveh Israel, the oldest synagogue in this city and second oldest in the nation, was associated with the revolutionary leader when he was a member of a group of distinguished non-Jews who raised a substantial sum of money to save the synagogue from being foreclosed under a judgment for unpaid construction bills. A subscription list, dated 1788 and bearing Franklin's signature, was on display at the synagogue during the special Sabbath services.

DR. THEILHABER, FORMER LEADER OF JEWS IN GERMANY, DIES IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- Impressive funeral services were held here today for Dr. Ernest Theilhaber, physician and sportsman, who died this week-end in Israel at the age of 71. He was founder of the Maccabi sports organization in Germany 50 years ago and is the author of a number of books about German Jewry, the best known of which is "The Decline of German Jewry."