



Jewish Telegraphic Agency DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

650 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXIII No. 63 - 38th year

Monday, April 2, 1956

U.S. ARMS POLICY FOR ISRAEL UNCHANGED; ISRAEL SEEKS JETS IN CANADA

WASHINGTON, April 1. (JTA) -- United States authorities today unofficially revealed that Israel is pressing Canada for American-designed F-86 sabre jet interceptors being built in Canada. At the same time, they emphasized that absolutely no change has taken place in the status of Israel's arms application in Washington.

It is up to Canada, Britain, France, or any other nation to decide for themselves whether they want to sell arms to Israel, the Washington officials declared. The State Department indicated some time earlier this month that it neither approved nor disapproved any decision France might reach on the sale of jet planes to Israel. This view was reiterated today with new emphasis placed on Secretary of State Dulles' stated view that an Arab-Israel settlement lies in "means other than an arms race."

(In Jerusalem, Israeli military authorities categorically denied today receiving any French jet planes. The denial was issued in connection with reports abroad that France started the delivery last week of 12 Mystere jet interceptor planes to Israel with the consent of the United States Government, and that some of these planes had passed through Rome. In Paris, the Foreign Office said: "Not a single French jet plane has left French territory for Israel.")

One official, refusing to be quoted, said it would be "cruelly misleading" to lead Israel to believe that the State Department has given Canada, Britain, France, or any other country the idea that the United States wants arms sold to Israel. The fact that Col. Katriel Salmon, chief Israel military attache in Washington, accompanied Israel Ambassador Abba Eban when the latter called last Friday on George V. Allen, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, gave rise to a belief that the arms question was discussed in detail, although the Ambassador did not divulge the specific nature of matters discussed.

State Department press spokesman Lincoln White said that he "did not know" what comment he could make when asked whether the U.S. recognized in principle Israel's need for arms. "I know nothing about that," he stated. But he added that he thought the position of the U.S. with respect to Israel has been spelled out in Secretary Dulles' press conferences and in Mr. Dulles' letters to Congressmen. Secretary Dulles informed Congressmen who urged arms for Israel that the State Department does not think arms for Israel is "the best way to bring peace to the Middle East, indicating a preference for United Nations and tripartite peace moves."

Asked if active discussion had been resumed on Israel's arms request between the State Department and the Defense Department, Mr. White said he did not know, but that constant consultations are always under way between the Defense Department and the State Department.

JORDAN TROOPS FIRE ON INVESTIGATING TEAM HEADED BY U.N. OFFICIAL

JERUSALEM, April 1. (JTA) -- An investigating team headed by a United Nations observer and including Israeli personnel were fired on today during its investigation of the ambushing of several Israeli vehicles in the Wadi Arra in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The investigators were fired on several times this afternoon by troops stationed inside Jordan. Firing ended only after a UN observer arrived on the Jordan side and established contact with the team inside Israel. The trackers found evidence of three men having fled into Jordan after the ambush in which one civilian was wounded and an Israeli police car was hit by bullets. Israel has demanded the convening of an emergency meeting of the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission.

Meanwhile, several infiltrators from Egyptian territory bordering on Israel in the Negev were wounded today by an Israeli patrol which discovered them harvesting in fields sown by Israeli settlers. As the patrol moved to intercept the infiltrators, Egyptian positions across the border opened fire. The Israelis returned the fire and the infiltrators fled. Several of them were hit, but their comrades were seen to be helping them across the border.

DR. GOLDMANN FORESEES INTENSIVE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL BY GREAT POWERS

JERUSALEM, April 1. (JTA) -- The danger facing Israel today is political, not military, Dr. Nahum Goldmann declared here today. The situation in the Middle East; the Jewish Agency leader asserted, will occupy a place on the agenda of the Great Powers for a long time--until a settlement is effected. During that period, which may last two or three years, Israel will be under pressure to grant concessions, since the Arabs contest the current status. All of this, he added, is related to the forthcoming World Zionist Congress, which will be an emergency Congress to demonstrate world Jewry's reaction to the problem.

Dr. Goldmann praised the results of the recent Latin American Jewish conference in Montevideo which, he asserted, surpassed the most optimistic expectations. An excellent spirit prevailed among the thousand delegates, he stated, noting that only a few hundred had actually been expected to attend. That conference dispelled any doubts there may have been about Latin American Jewry's full identification with Israel, he said.

Turning to the North African situation, the Jewish Agency leader said he saw no danger for Jews in the independence of Tunisia and Morocco. French guarantees, he declared, should safeguard the rights of the Jews of both countries, which also have Jews in their Cabinets. He also referred to talks between Moslem leaders and the World Jewish Congress when assurances were given regarding the status of Jews. The situation of the Jews of Algeria, however, may be a cause for apprehension, he said. They would be subjected, he felt, to pressure to choose between French and Algerian interests. The redeeming feature of the status of Algerian Jewry was the possibility open to them to emigrate to France in the event of difficulties, he concluded.

TRAINS OF BRITISH MUNITIONS "DISAPPEAR" IN EGYPT; LONDON SHOCKED

LONDON, April 1. (JTA) -- As the last contingent of British troops left the Suez Canal this week-end, turning over control of the largest military base in the Middle East to Egyptian troops, concern was reported in British Parliamentary circles that vast quantities of British Army munitions would "vanish" to find its way into Egyptian Army storehouses.

The Sunday newspaper "Empire News" reported that MP's were shocked by reports that complete trains of British ammunition, mostly artillery shells, had disappeared. The government would be queried on this matter when Parliament reconvenes, the newspaper reported.

It revealed that Egyptian Army troops are responsible for guarding 100,000,000 pounds (\$280,000,000) worth of equipment, supplies and installations. "Everyone is uneasily aware that if the Egyptian soldiers relax their vigilance, War Office stores will vanish quicker than snow in summer," Empire News said.

50-MILE RAILWAY SECTION OPENED IN NEGEV; COST \$5,600,000 TO BUILD

BEERSHEBA, April 1. (JTA) -- The newest 50-mile section of Israel's railways was opened here this week-end in the presence of Prime Minister David Ben Gurion and members of the Cabinet. The railway section, which will eventually be extended another 170 miles to the Red Sea port of Elath, was built at a cost of \$5,600,000 and took three years to complete. Rails and auxiliary equipment for the new line were obtained under provisions of the German reparations agreement.

The inaugural run over the line was made by a train pulled by a diesel engine from Jerusalem--a four-hour trip through territory rich in historical associations. The largest of the line's bridges, for example, passes over Eilah, where David slew Goliath in single combat. Waystops included Gath, Lachish, Zoklag and other Biblical landmarks.

The new line will facilitate transport of material from the phosphate quarries, where phosphates are now produced at a rate of 500 tons daily. It will also mark the opening of a new phase in the continuing development of the Negev.

LABOR COMMITTEE REQUESTS RESTORATION OF JEWISH CULTURE IN U.S.S.R.

NEW YORK, April 1. (JTA) -- The Jewish Labor Committee announced today that it has communicated a request to the Soviet Ambassador Georgi Zarubin in Washington asking for restoration of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union.

The request, signed by Adolph Held, national chairman of the organization, pointed out that for the past eight years the Jewish Labor Committee has made inquiries about the fate of Jewish writers in the Soviet Union. "We have regarded the liquidation of Jewish writers, not only as a personal tragedy, but as the liquidation of Jewish literature and language. We insisted, therefore, that the facts be furnished, not only to us, but to the world, revealing the fate of these Jewish writers who were citizens of the Soviet Union. Unfortunately, we have never received any reply from you, as the representative of your government in this country."

Emphasizing that "Jewish cultural institutions in the USSR are still padlocked," the JLC said in its communication to the Soviet Ambassador: "If the declarations of the present regime that the past crimes are to be ascribed only to Stalin and Beria and others are correct, then the leaders of the present government must demonstrate that they do not follow on the same path. One way is to legalize Jewish existence, Jewish culture and the Jewish school."

BRITISH PARLIAMENT HEARS PLEA ON PROPERTY BELONGING TO NAZI VICTIMS

LONDON, April 1. (JTA) -- The question of the disposal of property in this country belonging to victims of Nazi persecution who sent their property here before the war was raised in the House of Commons this week end by Sir Henry D. Avigdor Goldsmid, Conservative Member of Parliament.

Prefacing his criticism with a tribute to the humane policy of the British Government which had enabled many Jews to enter this country thus saving them from extermination at the hands of the Nazis, Sir Henry declared: "For this the Jewish people will always be grateful, and although I propose to be critical of the Board of Trade, that criticism in no way extends to the policy of this country as a whole; which has always been a great upholder of the oppressed."

What he was concerned about, said Sir Henry, was heirless property which is still administered by the custodian of enemy property. Pointing out that the United States had approved a bill authorizing the transfer of \$3,000,000 to Jewish institutions from unidentifiable assets of this nature for the relief of persecutees and that Switzerland was considering a similar bill, Sir Henry urged the Government to consider whether it might not be appropriate to make a special "ex gratia" payment to refugee organizations--Jewish and Christian--which had worked to relieve the victims of Nazism.

Referring to property sent here for safekeeping from enemy countries other than Germany and Austria--particularly Hungary and Rumania--he said that such property had been frozen and vested in the Administration for Enemy Property. The Conservative M.P. also referred to those who went underground to evade persecution--they did not qualify for the restoration of their assets if they avoided imprisonment. "The view is taken that where owners of funds died a natural death," he went on, "the estate is refused to their heirs, even if the heirs themselves had been persecuted. All these cases are known to the Board of Trade and only in some of them have the claims been met."

British Minister Outlines Government's Stand on Heirless Funds

In his reply to Sir Henry, A. R. W. Low, Minister of State at the Board of Trade, expressed regret that Sir Henry had charged the Board with being unkind in the way it had administered the matter. "There's no difference inside the government on these matters," he asserted. "Great consideration has been given to the kind of concessions which could be allowed. The decision to allow concessions was taken after the war. A large number of claims had been made for concessions; 904 cases have been examined; 656 were admitted and 248 rejected. In other words, 73 percent of the cases had been admitted; and covered 1,500,000 pounds."

"These cases," continued Mr. Low, "have all been handled very thoroughly and with the greatest sympathy. When considering concessions, the House must be aware of the difficulties of administration." Among these difficulties, he said, were the large number of cases which differed widely and the great difficulty of getting evidence which must come from behind the Iron Curtain. "I'm afraid it is too late to consider altering the rules," he stated, adding that "apart from the effect on the amount of property that is left, if the rules were altered, every single one of the cases which had been rejected would have to be looked at anew."

Mr. Low commented that it was not only persecuted Jews who went underground, but criminals as well. Evidence of going underground was difficult to find and often obtainable only from interested parties. In reference to the suggestion that heirless funds should be treated separately and distributed to refugee organizations, Mr. Low stated it would be impossible to define and identify this property. The U.S. had treated the problem differently, but they had larger assets and relatively fewer claims, he argued.

LAST DP CAMP FOR JEWS CLOSED IN GERMANY; J. D. C. TRANSFERS DIRECT RELIEF

MUNICH, April 1. (JTA) -- The Foehrenwald DP camp for Jews, the last remaining center in Germany, was formally closed yesterday. With the closing of this camp the Jewish DP era came to an end, nearly 11 years after the overthrow of the Nazi regime. The vast majority of Jewish DP's, however, were taken out of Germany and other parts of Europe in the few years immediately after the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

The Joint Distribution Committee also closed an era in Germany yesterday, when it stepped out of the direct relief picture in the German cities. Although the Central Welfare Agency of the Jews in Germany and the Jewish communities have taken over responsibility for social welfare work in the past few years, it was not until yesterday that the JDC could bow out of direct relief. The move was delayed because of the large number of welfare clients in the various cities and because of other communal problems.

The JDC, which cooperated in the Jewish and German efforts to close down Foehrenwald, was responsible in part for relocating Jews from the camp who would not or could not leave Germany. They have been helped to find housing and to make initial adjustments within the German economic community.

COURT BANS ANTI-JEWISH TELEVISION COMPANY FROM SELLING STOCK TO PUBLIC

NEW YORK, April 1. (JTA) -- A New York State Supreme Court justice this week end enjoined the "Christian Television Network" from selling stock to the public in corporations whose "ownership, management and control was exclusively in Christian hands."

In handing down a permanent injunction against West Hooker and his two firms, Film Network, Inc., and Master Television Corp., Supreme Court Justice Aaron Steuer said that "either the scheme is visionary or the schemer is a charlatan."

Mr. Hooker told the court that he had organized his network because the major TV networks are "Jewish-owned and controlled." "I am not anti-Semitic, a racial term, but I am anti-Jewish, a creed term, to the extent that Judaism is anti-Christian," he said.

U. J. A. DESIGNATES APRIL AS "ISRAEL FREEDOM MONTH"; WILL HOLD PARLEYS

NEW YORK, April 1. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal has designated the month of April as "Israel Freedom Month" in honor of Israel's 8th Anniversary to be observed officially on Monday, April 16, it was announced today by Joseph M. Mazer, national chairman of the UJA's Special Survival Fund.

Mr. Mazer pointed out that the Freedom Month observance by the UJA would be marked by more than 500 campaign fund-raising meetings in communities from coast to coast, and by nine regional conferences devoted to campaign progress in a total of 20 states. The conferences, he said, will take place beginning Sunday, April 8, in Chicago, Boston, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Omaha, New Haven, Flint, Mich., Trenton, N.J., and Allentown, Pa.

"The UJA is now entering the peak phase of its 1956 nationwide campaign," Mr. Mazer stated. He estimated that between 800,000 and 1,000,000 persons will be involved in campaign activity during the month of April. "It would not surprise me if these figures were exceeded in the light of the charged atmosphere over Israel's ability to survive as a free and independent state," he added.

5,000 JEWS ATTEND "THIRD SEDER" IN NEW YORK; HONOR WARSAW HEROES

NEW YORK, April 1. (JTA) -- Some 5,000 guests attended Third Seders at the Commodore and Waldorf Astoria Hotels last night in the traditional mass celebration sponsored by the National Committee for Labor Israel. Last night's affairs marked the 35th anniversary of the Histadrut, Israel's general federation of labor, and the 13th anniversary of the revolt in the Warsaw Ghetto.

Among those who participated in the recitation of a modern Haggadah at the seders, were: Brig. Yigal Alon, of the Israel Army and a member of Israel's Parliament, Abraham Shapiro, 86-year-old veteran guardsman in Israel and a founder of Petach Tikvah, Louis Segal, member of the Jewish Agency executive, Dr. Dov Biegun, general secretary of the National Committee, Dr. Joseph Burstein, head of the Histadrut's department of culture and education, and Isaac Hamlin, Labor Zionist leader.

Ambassador Abba Eban, who was scheduled to attend the seders but was unable to come at the last minute, sent a recorded message in which he revealed that Cairo would soon have 250 Soviet jets assembled on fields only 12 minutes flying time from Israeli cities. He declared that the United States held the key to Israel's program for balancing this "unseemly aerial preponderance" by the "modern Pharaoh." Messages were also sent by Israel's President Itzhak Ben Zvi and Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett and Sen. Herbert H. Lehman.

GERARD SWOPE MAKES SECOND GIFT OF \$100,000 TO AID TECHNION STUDENTS

NEW YORK, April 1. (JTA) -- Receipt of a second \$100,000 gift from Dr. Gerard Swope for the Gerard Swope Student Loan Fund at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology was announced today by David Rose, president of the American Technion Society.

Dr. Swope, formerly president and now honorary life president of the General Electric Company, established the loan fund in 1954 with a \$100,000 gift for the benefit of needy students of the Technion and also the Hebrew University. The new contribution is solely for students of Technion.

In former years, Dr. Swope established similar loan funds for students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dartmouth College, Union College, Rutgers University, Bryn Mawr College and Barnard College-Columbia University. He also established a loan fund for students of the high school in St. Louis which he attended in his youth.

DROPSIE COLLEGE OFFERS FELLOWSHIPS FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

PHILADELPHIA, April 1. (JTA) -- The Institute for Israel and the Middle East of Dropsie College has announced for the academic year 1956-1957 fellowships of \$1,000 and \$600 each, available to qualified students who wish to specialize in Middle Eastern studies leading to the Ph.D. degree. Applications for fellowships should be submitted not later than April 15, 1956.