



Jewish Telegraphic Agency DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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Vol. XXIII No. 83 - 38th year

Monday, April 30, 1956

ESHKOL PRESENTS \$1,000,000,000 PLAN TO WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

JERUSALEM, April 29. (JTA) -- A \$1,000,000,000-four-year plan for underwriting the State of Israel's immigration program and for buttressing its economy was presented today at the World Zionist Congress by Levi Eshkol, Finance Minister of Israel and head of the Jewish Agency's settlement department.

The Zionist movement must mobilize its total resources to back this plan, otherwise, he warned, the bringing in of large numbers of immigrants--which may become necessary--could mean the ruination of the economy of Israel, endangering the security of the state and suffering for the immigrants. He expressed hope that the Soviet bloc countries may open their doors wider for Jewish emigration and said that Israel must be prepared for such an eventuality.

To put the plan into operation, Mr. Eshkol--speaking as the Jewish Agency leader--said, would require the United Jewish Appeal to increase its current receipts by \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 annually and to double receipts from the Israel bond drive. These funds would have no relation whatever to the monies needed for security purposes at the present time, Mr. Eshkol stressed.

The absorption of 20,000 new families, as provided by the plan, he reported, will require 480,000,000 pounds; the consolidation of existing settlements, 250,000,000 pounds; the housing of 30,000 to 40,000 immigrants outside agricultural settlements will come to another 150,000,000 pounds; afforestation and preparation of soil, 40,000,000 pounds; employment and health services during the first year of the immigrants' settlement, 50,000,000 pounds and a variety of other items, including settlement security measures, youth work and organization will require another 280,000,000 pounds.

Mr. Eshkol estimated that in the general immigration movement will come thousands of families who will strike roots on their own and with some assistance from the Zionist movement. He asked that immigration from the Western countries be aided financially to the extent needed by each family.

Analyzes How This Sum Can Be Raised Within Four Years

In a detailed analysis of where the 1,800,000,000 pounds--\$1,000,000,000--would come from, Mr. Eshkol gave the following sums and their sources: 546,000,000 pounds from German reparations; 154,000,000 pounds from grants and loans; 140,000,000 pounds from government bonds; 140,000,000 pounds from other loans and taxes; 300,000,000 pounds from the UJA; a like sum from the Israel bond campaign, and 220,000,000 from private capital. This investment when injected into the Israel economy will permit the cutting in half of the trade deficit which runs at about \$300,000,000 annually.

Mr. Eshkol, who in his two major duties illustrates the point, insisted that the Zionist movement's program must be carried out in keeping with Israel's national and economic policies. The Zionist and government development of the countryside and the economy are and must remain intertwined, he said.

Reviewing the accomplishments of the Zionist movement within the State of Israel, Mr. Eshkol said that the incorporation of masses of immigrants from 70 countries in Israel has changed the face of the countryside. New villages have sprung up, he noted, long-neglected fields have been fertilized and cultivated, tens of thousands of new homes have arisen and millions of trees now line thousands of miles of avenues. Many wells have been dug, bridges built, roads constructed, streams diverted and springs discovered, he added.

Mrs. Golda Myerson, Labor Minister of Israel, who addressed the Zionist Congress this week-end, declared that as far as Israel was concerned it prefers peace with its Arab neighbors and that "all that is demanded of the Arabs is to stop their shooting at us and peace would reign." She said that Israel would remain courageous and urged the great powers to do likewise, insisting that peace would be achieved only if the powers stopped sending arms to the Arabs. She rejected a "peace without our agreement" for "such a peace is like war."

A Brooklyn-born 24-year-old wife and mother stirred the Congress today by describing life in the Kissufim settlement, opposite the Gaza strip border. The young woman, Liora Shofman Borovsky, settled in the border area to raise her family, till the soil and defend the Jewish State.

ZIONIST CONGRESS HEARS REPORT ON JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM COMMUNIST LANDS

JERUSALEM, April 29. (JTA) -- Only about 6,000 Jews from countries behind the Iron Curtain came to Israel during the last five years, it was reported here by Dr. Giora Josephthal, Jewish Agency treasurer, addressing the World Zionist Congress. Most of them were aged people who came to join their children, he said.

Dr. Josephthal estimated that there are about 3,000,000 Jews residing today in the Soviet bloc countries. The allocation of permits to emigrate from these countries, he asserted, follows no rule or logic. There must be many thousands of Jews there who are afraid even to apply for permission to emigrate, he said.

"The general picture of immigration possibilities from the Communist countries," the Jewish Agency treasurer went on, "remains dark, since one-quarter of our people are unable to reach us, unable to live a free national life. Parents are separated from children and vice versa." He estimated that there are now between 40,000 to 50,000 families in Israel who still await their relatives.

Reporting on the total immigration into Israel and the absorption of the immigrants in Israel, Dr. Josephthal told the Congress that the Israel Government has cooperated fully with the Jewish Agency in these two major fields of the Agency's activities. He said that 786,000 Jews were brought into Israel since its establishment as a State. Together with the natural increase, the Jewish population of Israel has grown from 650,000 at the time the state was established to the present figure of 1,600,000--an increase of 250 percent. That figure, however, he noted, represents only one-eighth of the world's Jewish population.

The reduction in the scale of immigration four years ago, he reported, was a direct result of the economic and sociological difficulties then prevailing in Israel, and the improvement--real or imaginary--in the life of the Diaspora. Only with the renewed threat to the security of the Jews in North Africa, did the wave of immigration begin again, he said. He pointed out that in the period since the last Zionist Congress, 80 percent of all immigrants to Israel came from the countries of North Africa and Asia. In the last two years, he stressed, that figure had reached 90 percent.

Dr. Josephthal Analyzes Situation of the Jews in North Africa

Referring to the situation in North Africa where, he said, there were over 400,000 Jews, mostly in Morocco, Dr. Josephthal urged his listeners to realize that a tense situation prevailed in those countries and that the Governments of Tunisia and Morocco, which had only recently achieved or were about to achieve their independence, had not evolved any steady or firm policy toward Jews residing there which could be regarded as hostile. He added that no one could understand or appreciate better than the Zionists the striving for national independence in the hearts of others.

One of the greatest achievements he had to report, said the Agency leader, was the new pattern of distribution of population in Israel. Where 70 percent of the population had been concentrated in three cities--Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa--when the State was founded, now only 50 percent of the population of Israel lives in those cities. Furthermore, he noted, in the south and in the Negev, there were now 75,000 Jews as compared with 6,000 at that time. Moreover, eleven out of every twelve now living in the Negev are new immigrants.

Another feature he stressed in his report was the comparative youthfulness of Israel's population, with 40 percent of all Israelis under 19--a more favorable ratio than all of the countries of Europe and America. He attributed this largely to the heavy immigration from Asian and North African countries, noting that 50 percent of immigrants from those countries were under 19. Israel, he said, has twice as many children and youths as England, a hopeful augury for the future and for the existence of the people and the State.

Dr. Josephthal characterized the situation of the health services and education among the new immigrants as progressing in a generally satisfactory manner. He urged the delegates to join in kindling in the hearts of Jewish youth in Western Europe and America a desire to join the builders of Israel, and, at the same time, to make efforts to help solve their special economic and social needs prior to their emigration.

The executive of the Jewish Agency pointed with pride, Dr. Josephthal went on to say, to the fact that 98 percent of the settlement budget had been implemented. Since the last Congress, 401,000,000 pounds have been spent for that purpose, he noted.

But he coupled the pride in what had been accomplished with an expression of regret at what might have been done. If the Jewish people throughout the world had provided an additional \$30,000,000 a year, he asserted, there would not be a single maabara (immigrant transit camp) left in the country today. Moreover, he added, all of the settlements would have been consolidated by now, and it is possible that there would be fewer Jews left in Morocco today.

ONE ISRAELI SOLDIER KILLED, TWO WOUNDED NEAR THE EGYPTIAN BORDER

JERUSALEM, April 29. (JTA) -- One Israeli soldier was killed and two others were wounded today when their vehicle hit an Egyptian-planted landmine in the vicinity of Nir Itzhak.

U. S. AND BRITAIN CAUTIOUS ON SOVIET STATEMENT ON ARMS TO MIDDLE EAST

LONDON, April 29. (JTA) -- The statement this week-end by Nikita Khrushchev, head of the Communist Party of the USSR, that the Soviet Union would not send arms to the Middle East providing "other countries" do the same, was interpreted here today to mean that the Soviet Government would discontinue supplying arms to Egypt if the Western Powers would agree to a "blanket freeze" on all arms shipments to that area.

If this were the case, it was pointed out here today, Egypt would be left in a position of great strength over Israel, since Egypt has already received a huge quantity of offensive arms from Communist countries, while Israel's application for arms to the United States has not as yet been acted upon and in view of the fact that other Western countries have not sold arms to Israel.

(In Washington, it was indicated that the professed Soviet willingness to abide by an overall United Nations embargo on arms for the Middle East was received coolly at the State Department since it would imply the abandonment of the Baghdad Pact. Even if such an embargo concerned only the Arab countries and Israel, the United States and Britain would no longer be in a position to send arms to Iraq, and Israel would be denied the jet fighters she has been trying to buy in Western countries to offset the increased air strength that Egypt acquired from the Soviet bloc.)

In his statement, made at a press conference in London prior to his return with Soviet Premier Bulganin to Moscow, Mr. Khrushchev said that the Soviet Union is prepared "to participate in an arms embargo in the Middle East "through the United Nations or some other way." Asked whether his government would try to persuade other countries to reduce arms shipments to the Middle East--an obvious reference to Czechoslovakia's sale of arms to Egypt--Mr. Khrushchev replied: "That is a very delicate question, but we should not want to by-pass it. As a matter of fact, we in our own country are not shipping arms to anybody, and we would prefer that there were no such shipments at all. But such shipments are taking place.

"It would be wrong," he continued, "if we were to say that the Soviet Union would not sell arms to states which might ask us to do so for the reason that shipments are being made to other countries. If it were possible to agree, through the United Nations or some other way, that these arms shipments should not take place, we would welcome that and we are prepared to take part in such an undertaking which would help bring peaceful conditions to the troubled parts of the world."

Soviet Premier Bulganin said: "In view of the Soviet Government, the main source of international friction and the cause for the deterioration of relations between the Arab states and Israel is the creation of military groups such as that embraced in the Baghdad Pact. The British view does not share our interpretation, and we do not agree with them. Here, you see, we take different stands." Mr. Bulganin concluded by stating that the agreement reached between the Soviet and British leaders in the talks here on the Middle East "opens no small possibility for our two countries."

28 WOUNDED IN HAIFA IN PROTEST DEMONSTRATION BY RELIGIOUS ISRAELIS

HAIFA, April 29. (JTA) -- Twenty-eight persons, including 22 policemen, were wounded here yesterday in a clash between the police and 1,500 demonstrators, who were protesting against the fact that an industrial exhibition was open on Saturday.

The demonstrators, who included the Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Zorach Warhaftig and the Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, Benjamin Mintz, held a mass prayer meeting outside the exhibition site here. The clash occurred when the demonstrators unsuccessfully attempted to break through the police cordon. The crowd dispersed at midday.

The demonstrators had gone ahead despite the publication of a notice by the exhibition authorities that no tickets would be sold on Saturday and no motors would be operated. The religious groups, contended, however, that the mere opening of the exhibition on Saturday was, in itself, a desecration of the Sabbath.

ISRAELI FISHING VESSEL REPORTED SEIZED BY TURKEY; CREW ARRESTED

JERUSALEM, April 29. (JTA) -- Representatives of the Israel Foreign and Agricultural Ministries left today for Turkey to investigate the seizure of the Israeli fishing vessel "Kadima," reportedly outside Turkish territorial waters.

Reports from Turkey stated that a Turkish warship, using big guns and machine-gun fire, last Thursday forced the Israeli vessel to heave to, outside Turkish jurisdiction. The vessel was escorted into the Turkish port of Alexandretta where the crew was arrested and its cargo seized, according to the dispatches.

ALL STUDENTS OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEER FOR FORTIFICATION WORK

JERUSALEM, April 29. (JTA) -- The entire student body of the Hebrew University, led by those faculty members who are physically fit, left today for a week's volunteer work building fortifications and other defensive works in the border settlements. The university will be shut all week. The students and teachers will be joined by thousands of workers from the Jerusalem area who will be contributing labor for border defenses this week.

