



Jewish Telegraphic Agency DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXIII No. 110 - 38th year

Friday, June 8, 1956

SHARETT REPORTED REFUSING TO LEAVE CABINET; BEN GURION INSISTENT

JERUSALEM, June 7. (JTA) -- Strenuous efforts are being made within the Mapai Party to avoid a crisis which seems to be shaping up over Premier David Ben Gurion's insistence that Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett quit his Cabinet post and take over the secretariat of the party, it was learned here today. All factions in the Mapai feel that the party needs a drastic administrative overhaul to bring it into line behind the government and help solve major domestic issues.

Mr. Sharett is pictured as refusing to accept the job and as being upset by "machinations" which have deeply involved him without his prior consent. The entire Israel press is giving great prominence to reports about the conflict and to the reported opinions of various personages involved. All sources agree that a major party crisis may be in the offing.

Mrs. Golda Myerson, one of the three prominent candidates considered for the job, has indicated that she would not accept the job, unless drafted for it. A party committee refused to consider transferring Levi Eshkol from his finance post. Mrs. Myerson, who has been suggested as a likely candidate for the foreign affairs post in the event Mr. Sharett takes over the party position, has delayed her departure for Geneva where she is scheduled to head an Israel delegation at a session of the International Labor Organization.

One "compromise" suggestion bruited about Mapai circles is for the formation of a "collective secretariat" consisting of Messrs. Ben Gurion, Sharett and Eshkol and Mrs. Myerson, which would be in an advisory capacity to some other "strong personality" outside the Cabinet who would be assigned to head the party.

JEWS TO GET OVER \$400,000,000 UNDER MEASURE PASSED BY BUNDESTAG

BONN, June 7. (JTA) -- Jewish victims of Nazism may benefit to the extent of \$400,000,000 to \$500,000,000 over the next seven years as a result of the passage yesterday by the Bundestag, lower house of the West German Parliament, of the long delayed amendment to the Indemnification Law, it was estimated here today. Before entering into force, however, the measure must yet be approved by the Bundesrat, the upper house.

The measure constitutes an almost complete overhaul of the 1953 Indemnification Law which was passed despite widespread recognition of the need for major changes. Among the chief features of the new measure is elimination of the 25 percent difference in benefit payments to German nationals and DP's who were victimized and the extension of benefits to residents of East Germany.

In calling for approval of the measure, Heinrich Greve and Dr. Franz Boehm, chairman and deputy chairman, respectively, of the committee which hammered out the amendment, noted that the process of handling claims was unsatisfactory, particularly because in the apparatus set up in some states ex-Nazis were in a position to sabotage speedy handling of claims. The volume of paper work and the shortage of competent personnel to handle claims also contributed to long delays.

In the event that the Bundesrat or Federal Council, in which the West German states are represented, fails to accept the Bundestag version, the amendment will be sent to a conference committee of both houses for settlement. When the original measure's shortcomings were recognized, it was hoped to have an amendment passed by 1954, but the matter has dragged.

Jewish Claims Conference Welcomes German Bundestag Action

NEW YORK, June 7. (JTA) -- The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany welcomed today the passage of the new Federal Indemnification Law by the German Bundestag and called for speedy ratification of the law by the Bundesrat.

The law provides for a substantial expansion in the scope of the indemnification payments which victims of Nazi persecution are to receive and meets a number of the recommendations on their behalf which the Conference had put forward. "Thousands of Nazi victims throughout the world, many aged and in need, are awaiting most eagerly the enactment of the Federal Indemnification Law by the Bundesrat and its speedy implementation by the German authorities," Jacob Blaustein, senior vice president of the Claims Conference, stated today. While welcoming the action of the Bundestag, the Claims Conference expressed regret that certain important proposals it had submitted were not incorporated into the law.

HAMMARSKJOLD TO CONTINUE HIS "GOOD OFFICES" WITH ARABS AND ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., June 7. (JTA) -- The Security Council resolution on the Middle East adopted this week is "quite a step in some respects, and definitely in the right direction," United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold declared today.

At his first news conference since the Council's action, which was dubbed a compromise because Britain had stricken out of the resolution a wish for peaceful settlement of the Israel-Arab conflict on a "mutually acceptable" basis, Mr. Hammarskjold denied that the deletion of that phrase on the insistence of the Arab delegates, backed by the Soviet Union, indicated an unsound practice as far as the United Nations in general was concerned.

Mr. Hammarskjold declared that he is going to continue his "good offices" with the governments in the Middle East, and he said that he is still convinced "emphatically" of the "will to peace of all the parties in the area." However, he reiterated earlier statements about a final peace settlement being still in the distance.

The UN Secretary General said that Syria's threat of a shooting war in the event that Israel resumes work on the Bnot Yacov canal is only a "unilateral interpretation" of Syria's cease-fire pledge. He also said that Syria's contention that "Palestine is nothing but Southern Syria" does seem like a statement affecting Israel sovereignty. He refused to say whether a future Palestine settlement will have to be built on either the 1947 partition resolution--as demanded by the Arab states--or any other basis.

U.S. ARMING OF ARABS CRITICIZED IN SENATE; PROTECTION OF ISRAEL URGED

WASHINGTON, June 7. (JTA) -- The United States policy of giving arms to Iraq while refusing them to Israel is "morally wrong" and inconsistent with United States interests in the Middle East, Sen. George H. Bender, Ohio Republican, said on the Senate floor. He asserted that this policy was advantageous to Soviet interests in the region.

He called for a policy of protecting Israel as being the road to peace, and criticized Secretary of State Dulles for recognizing Israel's need for military equipment but preferring to have other Western states fill those needs. "This is not leadership," Sen. Bender insisted.

He urged the Administration to sell arms to Israel and to act so that the preservation of Israel becomes a basic element of U.S. Middle East policy. When the "Arab world realizes that we mean business, we may look for some kind of peaceful settlement," he said. The Senator applauded Premier David Ben Gurion's pledge to refrain from launching a preventive war. He added that he hoped Israel will not apply to Russia for military aid.

U.S. INFORMED OF DELIVERY OF TWO SOVIET WARSHIPS TO EGYPT

WASHINGTON, June 7. (JTA) -- Two Soviet-built Skori class destroyers are at sea on their way to Alexandria, U.S. officials were informed today. The two destroyers, built in 1950, are being delivered to the Egyptian Navy. The transaction is part of the Communist-Egyptian arms deal.

Naval authorities identify the Skori class destroyers as a fast minelaying type of 2,200 tons displacement. It is especially suited to blockade operations. The destroyers have four 5-inch guns, torpedo tubes, and anti-aircraft batteries. The ships were reported in the Mediterranean and are expected to dock in Alexandria before the end of this week. They came from the Baltic Sea via the English Channel.

(In London, it was reported today that four submarines have been acquired by Egypt under an agreement with Poland. The report said that the four craft are expected at Alexandria from Gdynia, home port of the Polish Navy. The submarines, described as old models, will be used to intensify the Arab blockade of Israel, the London press said.

ATTEMPT TO GIVE SYRIA, LEBANON \$75,000,000 IN U.S. MILITARY AID FAILS

WASHINGTON, June 7. (JTA) -- A secret attempt was made to include \$75,000,000 worth of military assistance for Syria and Lebanon in the current foreign aid bill, Rep. Wayne Hays, Ohio Democrat, disclosed in the House today during the debate on the foreign aid bill. The provision which would have given major military assistance to the two Arab League states on a grant basis was knocked out previously. Rep. Hays challenged the item when the bill was before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, causing its elimination.

Rep. Hays reported that the Defense Department disavowed responsibility for the item and Washington officials indicated that the State Department and White House bore full responsibility. It was made clear that the Administration tried to keep the matter "classified," and asked Congressmen not to reveal it in the name of "national security."

The United States now grants arms free to Iraq and sells arms on a reimbursable basis to other Arab League states. If the Administration's secret move had succeeded, Syria and Lebanon would have been included in the military aid category similar to Iraq's status.

ISRAEL COMPLAINS TO U. N. ON EGYPTIAN SEIZURE OF SHIP BOUND FOR ELATH

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., June 7. (JTA) -- Israel today complained to the Security Council that Egypt has violated a Council resolution on freedom of Israeli shipping through the Suez Canal by seizure of several Greek and Italian ships bound for Israeli ports. Egypt's action, according to the letter, "appears to be of a special gravity when the Security Council has just reaffirmed once again the need for the reestablishment of full compliance with the general armistice agreement."

The protest reveals that a Greek vessel, S. S. Panngia, which arrived at Port Said from Haifa on May 25 with a cargo of cement for discharge at the Israeli port of Elath, is still being detained at Port Said. The ship's master is being confined to his ship so that he may not go ashore and make proper arrangements in regard to his journey or cargo. The protest also details several other Egyptian detentions of Greek and Italian shipping bound for Israel ports from 1953 on.

SITUATION ON JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM MOROCCO UNCLEAR, GOLDMANN SAYS

TEL AVIV, June 7. (JTA) -- The situation in reference to Jewish emigration from Morocco is unclear, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, told a press conference here today. He added that he hoped that Moroccan leaders would keep the promises of free emigration which they have made and would permit the organization and financing of such a migratory movement.

Reiterating his opinion that the most important task facing the Zionist movement is mobilization of world public opinion to Israel's side, he noted that this had become of paramount importance now that both the Eastern and Western Powers were beginning to take their differences to the United Nations for public settlement. The Arab victory in forcing the British to change their resolution in the Security Council earlier this week underlines the importance of mobilizing public support for Israel and keeping the Arab states from swaying the UN in their favor.

Dr. Goldmann revealed that he would personally take a hand in organizing national Zionist federations in England and Latin America, in line with the World Zionist Congress decision to establish such territorial federations. He also promised that special efforts will be made to attract to Israel middle class immigrants from Europe and both Americas.

Dr. Goldmann, who is also president of the World Jewish Congress, said that the WJC would accept the invitation by Moscow Rabbi Solomon Schleifer to send a delegation to Moscow for the High Holy Days. However, he said that his participation in the delegation would be decided after he conferred with the Soviet envoys to Paris and London.

CASABLANCA JEWS PETITION GOVERNMENT AGAINST JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CASABLANCA, June 7. (JTA) -- The Moslem-Jewish association of Morocco-Wifaq--circulated today a petition on behalf of its Jewish members calling for the resignation or replacement of the present Jewish Community Council of Casablanca, charging it with inactivity in relation to Moroccan national life and of being the representative of only a minority of Casablanca Jews. The petition reads:

"We, the undersigned, respectfully ask the Government of His Majesty to take into consideration our present request. We, Moroccan Jews of Casablanca, cannot remain silent and indifferent any longer regarding the passivity and inactivity of the present committee of our community. Moroccan Jews must take part in the national life of the country. However, the existing committee, as presently constituted, does not meet this eager desire of the Jewish population.

"Elected by the lowest minority of 1,200 voters, it cannot claim to represent the 80,000 Jews of Casablanca. We, therefore, ask the Moroccan Government to have this committee replaced by a team inspired with fresh minds who wish to guide the whole Moroccan Jewry towards active participation in the upbuilding of our native land and in achieving full brotherhood between Moroccans of every faith," the petition concludes.

JEW APPOINTED JUDGE IN MOROCCO; FIRST IN MOROCCAN HISTORY

CASABLANCA, June 7. (JTA) -- For the first time in the history of the Moroccan judiciary Jews have been named to important positions on the bench. The Jews, both of whom speak Arabic, are M. Ilguy, who was appointed a judge, and M. Azoulay, who was named Councillor to the Court of Appeals.

Meanwhile, addressing cadets at the Moroccan Military Academy, Prince Moulay Hassan, commander of the Moroccan National Army, noted that to date only one Jew had applied for admission to the academy. He asserted that attendance at the academy and a military career were open to all Moroccans, Jews as well as Moslems.

Premier Sidi-Si Embarak Bekkai gave an audience today to A. L. Easterman, political director of the World Jewish Congress. No official communiqué was issued after their meeting.

TWO-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF UNITED JEWISH APPEAL OPENS TOMORROW

NEW YORK, June 7. (JTA) -- More than 750 Jewish community leaders from all parts of the country will meet at the Hotel Roosevelt this week-end to help the United Jewish Appeal launch the second half of its 1956 nationwide campaign. The delegates will attend a two-day National Action Conference to assess the mid-year status of the Appeal's current campaign and to chart the course for the final half of the multi-million dollar nationwide drive.

A highlight of the opening session will be an address by Col. Chaim Herzog, Commander of the Jerusalem Military District for the Israel Defense Forces. Col. Herzog is the only Israel military officer who, under a United Nations agreement, has regular, direct contact with Arab military commanders. He is the son of Israel's Chief Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog.

AMERICAN J. N. F. LAUDS ZIONIST CONGRESS DECISION ON ITS AUTONOMY

NEW YORK, June 7. (JTA) -- The decision reached at the 24th World Zionist Congress to retain the present structure of the Jewish National Fund in the United States was hailed at a special meeting of the JNF board of directors here by Dr. Harris J. Levine, president of the JNF of America.

Emphasizing that the decision to uphold the autonomy and the independence of the Jewish National Fund was adopted unanimously by the Congress, Dr. Levine said that this was "a remarkable demonstration of the great value which Zionist delegates of all persuasions place on the work of the JNF, both in the past and at the present, in helping to develop the State of Israel." Mendel N. Fisher, executive director of the Jewish National Fund, reported to the board on a number of projects which were initiated in Israel during the period of the Congress.

U.S. AGUDATH ISRAEL CONVENTION OPENS; DISCUSSES RELIGIOUS PROBLEMS

GREENFIELD PARK, N. Y., June 7. (JTA) -- A call for a Jewish "spiritual revolution" to return to traditional religion as the only basis for coping with Jewish problems throughout the world was voiced here tonight by Rabbi Eliezer Silver, member of the presidium of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, at the opening session of the 34th national convention of Agudath Israel of America. Rabbi Silver declared that "the currently popular secular approach to basic Jewish issues has caused our people many setbacks, the fruit of which can be seen in the negative attitude that some nations have adopted to Israel in its hour of need."

The four-day convention, in which several hundred delegates are participating, will consider religious problems affecting the Jewish populations of the United States, Israel and North Africa. Rabbis Morris Sherer, executive vice-president of the organization, in his annual report, said that Agudath Israel has increased its membership by two thousand.

FORMATION OF \$5,000,000 FOUNDATION FOR HEBREW EDUCATION IS URGED

NEW YORK, June 7. (JTA) -- The organization of an American Tarbut (Cultural) Foundation to promote Hebrew education and culture in the United States with an initial fund of \$5,000,000 was urged last night by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, member of the Jewish Agency executive. He spoke at a dinner marking the 35th anniversary of the Hadoar, a Hebrew weekly.

"The rise of Israel," Dr. Neumann stressed, "cannot have its full impact on our life nor produce the hoped for Jewish renaissance in the Diaspora without the medium of Hebrew language and literature. The unity of the Jewish people and of the scattered Jewish communities must be cemented by Hebrew mortar."

OSE PAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE DECIDES TO EXPAND IN LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO CITY, June 7. (JTA) -- A decision to establish a central OSE office for Latin America in Mexico and intensify Jewish health work in Latin American countries was adopted here at the concluding session of the four-day Pan-American OSE conference held here.

Resolutions adopted at the conference expressed thanks to the Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish Agency and the Jewish Conference on Material Claims Against Germany for financial aid given to OSE. Hope was expressed that the three organizations would increase their support to enable the OSE to expand its activities in Israel and other countries where it operates.

COL. WEIZMANN ISRAEL AIR FORCE COMMANDER, TO HELP BOND DRIVE IN U.S.

NEW YORK, June 7. (JTA) -- Colonel Ezer Weizmann, Fighter Wing Commander of the Israel Air Force, arrived in New York yesterday to take part in the State of Israel bond drive in the United States. He is a nephew of the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann. Colonel Weizmann is accompanied by three outstanding officers of Israel's armed forces: Lieutenant Colonel Nachman Karni of the Israel Army; Commander Yosef Harel of the Israel Navy, and Lieutenant Colonel Gideon Shochat of the Israel Air Force.