Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE • NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXIV No. 74 - 30th year Wednesday, April 17, 1957

U.S. URGES ISRAEL TO SEEK COURT RULING ON AKABA; CAUTIONS ON FORCE

WASHINGTON, April 16. (JTA) -- State Department sources made it known today that Israel is being urged to seek a solution of the Akaba Gulf issue by respecting international legality but at all costs avoiding the use of force.

According to the State Department, it is in Israel's best interest to seek international legal definition and backing of its Akaba shipping rights. It was indicated that the United States would support Israel in taking legal steps to ascertain and protect shipping rights. However, the United States has cautioned that it will not countenance use of force by Israel to decide the Akaba issue.

Lebanese Ambassador Victor A. Khouri yesterday registered an official protest with the State Department against the passage of an American-owned oil tanker, the Kern Hills, through the Gulf of Akaba to the Israel port of Elath. Mr. Khouri protested verbally to Lampton Berry, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. He reiterated similar protests by Saudi Arabia and Egypt asserting that the Straits of Tiran are "Arab territorial waters."

(The Danish freighter Briggite Toft left Elath this week-end for Ceylon and Burma with a cargo of potash and cement in the first round-trip through the Tiran Straits since Israel smashed the Egyptian blockade at Sharm el Sheikh during the Sinai campaign. The ship is expected back in two months.)

U.S. Government officials said today that the United States still supports the principle of innocent passage in the Gulf of Akaba. They emphasized that the Eisenhower Administration will continue to uphold the principle unless there is a contrary ruling by the International Court of Justice at The Hague. The State Department would like to get such a ruling to settle the issue, but Israeli sources said they did not want a court action and did not expect the United States to start action for it.

Meanwhile, it was learned here today that the U.S. has notified Saudi Arabian officials that it regards the Gulf of Akaba as an international waterway and that Israeli ships cannot be denied use of the gulf. American officials said today that this view was put forth to Saudi Arabian officials when King Saud recently visited this country. Saudi Arabia is said to have argued that the gulf is a part of Saudi Arabian territorial waters and that Israeli ships would continue to be barred from the waterway.

Israel Not Frightened by Arab Threats on Akaba, Eban Says

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 16. (JTA) -- Israel intends to use its "rights of innocent passage" through the Strait of Tiran and the Gulf of Akaba regardless of Arab threats, Ambassador Abba Eban, declared here. "Our determination in that respect is unaltered," he said. "Shipping has been operating there and we will continue to exercise our legitimate peaceful rights."

Israel has agreed to provide hospital services for any troops of the United Nations Emergency Force who may require it, it was reported here today. The agreement, reached by Gen. E.L.M. Burns, UNEF commander, with Israel authorities and approved by Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, covers troops stationed in the Gaza and Akaba areas and parts of the Sinai Peninsula.

The Egyptian delegation at the United Nations submitted a letter to the Security Council yesterday charging Israel with preparing a new attack on Egypt. Dr. Omar Loutfi said that Israel's charges of Egyptian incursion and raids on Israel territory was a preluce to Israeli attack.

PASSOVER IN ISRAEL MARRED BY ARAB INFILTRATORS; TWO JEWS KILLED

TEL AVIV, April 16. (JTA) -- The discovery of bodies of two guards of Kibbutz Messilot near Beisan, victims of infiltrators from Jordan, disturbed the joy of the first day of Passover in Israel.

An Army spokesman said that cartridges and bullets from a Sten Gun and a British-made rifle were found near the bodies. Traces of two men from the place of ambush led to the Jordanian border, the spokesman said.

ISRAEL-SPANISH COMPANY FORMED TO BUILD SHIPS IN SPAIN FOR ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, April 16. (JTA) -- An Israel-Spanish shipping company has been formed on a joint partnership basis, it was reported here today.

The company has contracted for the construction in Spain of two 7,000 ton freighters costing $4,000,000, 80 percent of which will reportedly be financed through an American loan. The vessels will fly the Spanish flag but will be managed by the joint company from Haifa offices.

(Israel is taking delivery of a flotilla of new 40-knot motor patrol boats which have just been completed in an Italian shipyard, the London Daily Express reported today. The speedy craft can be used either as torpedo boats or gunboats and are suitable for service in both the Mediterranean Sea and Akaba Gulf, the newspaper stated.)

MOST OF POLAND'S JEWS DETERMINED TO EMIGRATE; REASONS OUTLINED

LONDON, April 16. (JTA) -- Most of the Jews of Poland have made up their minds to emigrate as soon as possible and only 10-15,000 of them are prepared to await the results of an investigation now being carried out on the problems of "national minorities," the Manchester Guardian reports.

The newspaper's correspondent, who was recently in Poland, said that a special commission of the central committee of the Polish Workers Party is now studying the conditions which have impelled so many of the Jews in the country to seek to leave, but several factors have induced many Jews not to wait.

One of these, the correspondent reported, is that some Jews are among the arrested officials of the political department of the secret police who are now awaiting trial. The Jews fear that the anti-Stalin and anti-Beria feelings at these trials, and which their revelations will generate, will be converted into anti-Semitic manifestations.

The Manchester Guardian correspondent pointed out that another factor was that since the Gomulka regime and Cardinal Wyszinski came to terms, religious instruction has been put on the curriculum in the schools. Many Jews who had adopted Polish names to conceal their Jewish origin, suddenly found themselves and their children in a difficult position and could not refuse to have their children attend Catholic religious instruction without either revealing their Jewish origin or being labelled as Communists.

The correspondent pointed out that Stalinists, seeking to discredit Premier Gomulka, are using anti-Semitism as weapons in their campaign, but he noted that "it is remarkable that the growth of anti-Semitism has coincided with the slowing-down of the revolution. As long as liberation from Stalinism seemed in progress, anti-Semitism was no problem. On the contrary, the mood of the population during the Suez crisis was strongly pro-Jewish and blame was put on the Russians who were accused of having fomented the trouble by supplying arms to Egypt.

"But as soon as the revolution was slowed down and internal tensions grew," the correspondent reported, "anti-Semitic tendencies became stronger. It now seems that total or nearly total exodus of the Jews from Poland may be the price which will have to be paid for political stabilization of the country."

EAST GERMAN PREMIER ATTACKS BONN FOR PAYING REPARATIONS TO JEWS

BERLIN, April 16. (JTA) -- A sharp attack on the Bonn Government formaking reparations deliveries to Israel was delivered before the East Berlin Peoples Chamber by East German Premier Otto Grotewohl.

Premier Grotewohl spoke of the "sympathy of the Gernan people for the Arab peoples defending their freedom and independence." He charged that the Adenauer Government "disregards the interests of the Arab nations and lends added impetus to the aggressive efforts of Israel's extremist gover nment circles. The Premier further asserted that with the help of the West German reparations goods, Israel "arms itself against the Arab peoples."

GERMAN AUTHORITIES START PROSECUTION AGAINST ANTI-SEMITIC PUBLISHER

BONN, April 16. (JTA) -- The Hamburg public prosecutor has initiated an investigation against Friedrich Nieland for writing and publishing a violently anti-Semitic pamphlet, Federal Minister of the Interior Dr. Gerhard Schroeder told the Bundestag. The Federal Criminal Police has confiscated 111 copies remaining of the original edition of 2,000.

The 400-year-old Jewish cemetery in the suburb of Moisling, near Luebeck, which was desecrated at the end of March by hooligans whom the police have been unable to apprehend, has again been desecrated. The Schleswig-Holstein Minister of the Interior, Helmut Lemke, has posted a $1,200 reward for information leading to their arrest.

U.S. RABBI BROADCASTS PASSOVER SERVICES TO JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- Russian-born Rabbi Gershon Jacobson, who left the Soviet Union in 1948, last night broadcast the traditional Passover service to the Jews of the USSR. His service was beamed over Radio Liberation which operates from Munich.

ANTI-SEMITISM IS AT LOWEST EBB IN EUROPE, NEVILLE LASKI REPORTS

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- At no time since the war have anti-Semitic forces appeared less significant in Europe, Neville Laski, vice president of the Anglo-Jewish Association, who is currently visiting the United States, reported to the American Jewish Committee here. He said that there exists in Western Europe "a strong desire" that Jews continue to live there.

"The days when there was talk of the emptying of Europe of its Jews are behind us," he stated. "A total of approximately 1,000,000 Jews are currently living in Western Europe. Of this number, some 450,000 live in Great Britain and 300,000 in France, with the remaining quarter of a million distributed in 16 other countries. The most significant Jewish communities to emerge with a community structure of strength and importance since the war, are those of Great Britain, France, Belgium and Switzerland." He noted that Spain now has a Jewish community of 3,000.

An encouraging sign in Western Europe, Mr. Laski reported, is the continuous process of integration being carried out by immigrant populations. He cited as an example that a few years ago, only ten percent of the Jews of Belgium possessed citizenship rights; today the figure approaches 50 percent; and in five years it is estimated it will be about 90 percent.

Mr. Laski stated that there are many internal difficulties which are common to many of the European Jewish communities. Among these are lack of manpower, leadership and finance. "Most of the European Jewish communities just do not have the rabbis, the educators and the trained social workers which they urgently need," he said. The problem of training personnel, he reported, is being dealt with in many places. Jewish community centers have been built in Great Britain, Rome, Paris, Lyons, Norway and Brussels.

At Judith Montefiore College, the Sephardic community is training 35 and 40 men from North Africa as rabbis and teachers, Mr. Laski said. Experiments along this line are being made to reach even the most scattered communities. Holland has introduced a system of traveling teachers who tour the provinces so that all Jewish parents can have their children educated, he reported. "The French have introduced a system of Jewish youth chaplains who travel around the country re-invigorating communities which have become dormant since the end of the war. The Italian community has expanded and improved its school system and sponsors annual educational conferences for its teachers."

JEWS IN NORTH AFRICA ADJUSTING THEMSELVES TO NEW CONDITIONS

LONDON, April 16. (JTA) -- Jewish communities in various North African countries are gradually adjusting themselves to new political conditions, the Board of Deputies of British Jews reported here yesterday.

The Board also reported that assistance is now being provided to 1,000 Hungarian and 1,000 Egyptian Jewish refugees in Britain. The report said that an appeal to British Jewry for 200,000 pounds to help the 2,000 refugees was making "slow progress."

INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY TO FINANCE TRANSPORTATION OF EGYPTIAN JEWS

GENEVA, April 16. (JTA) -- The transportation to Israel of 12,500 Jewish refugees who have left Egypt since the Suez crisis of last November will be financed by the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration.

The Committee voted this action in closed session after hearing reports that there were 7,500 such refugees in Italy and Greece who cannot pay their expenses for passage to Israel and that more are expected to leave Egypt soon. The refugees include stateless persons and varied nationalities.

N.C.R.A.C. ASKS STATE DEPT. TO ADMIT REFUGEES FROM EGYPT TO U.S.

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- A resolution urging the State Department and the Department of Justice to admit refugees from Egypt as parolees on the same basis as has been applied to Hungarian refugees has been approved by the executive committee of the National Community Relations Advisory Council.

The NCRAC, which represents six national Jewish organizations and 38 Jewish community Councils, cited the parolee provision of immigration laws application as in "the spirit of the great American tradition of asylum." The resolution called on the Secretary of State to recommend and for the Attorney General to act in his discretion to authorize admission of a "fair portion" of refugee expellees from Egypt.

"The Egyptian dictatorship has caused the emigration of no fewer than 10,000 Jews, many of whose families have lived in Egypt for generations. The approximately 40,000 Jews who remain in Egypt will be forced, likewise, to leave the country. These tragic victims of oppression must find refuge in lands where they can rebuild their shattered lives," the NCRAC resolution declared.

$3,384,809 RAISED AT OPENING OF CHICAGO JEWISH APPEAL CAMPAIGN

CHICAGO, April 16. (JTA) -- The Jewish Community of Chicago opened the 1957 Combined Jewish Appeal campaign for $10,500,000 with a dinner-meeting and women's division luncheon at which a total of $3,384,809 was announced.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Robert Briscoe, was the speaker at both the Inaugural Dinner at the Standard Club and at the noon meeting, where the women opened their phase of the local effort by raising $265,000. The sum raised on the campaign's opening day alone is more than half of the amount raised in 1956 in Chicago, it was announced by Joshua B. Glasser, general chairman of the Appeal and the Mayor's cousin.

MIRELMAN REPORTS LACK OF RABBIS AND JEWISH SCHOOLS IN LATIN AMERICA

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- The Jewish youth of Latin America no longer look to Europe for models of Judaism They are convinced that their future lies more with the patterns developed by Jews in the United States.

A report to this effect was presented by Simon Mirelman, president of the Instituto-Judio Argentino, to the American Jewish Committee. Mr. Mireiman, outstanding leader of Argentine Jewry who headed a delegation which attended the AJC 50th anniversary observance here, said that Jewisyh communities in Latin America suffer from a lack of rabbis and of Jewish schools for their children.

Of Argentina, Mr. Mirelman said it is just emerging from a dictatorial regime in which all freedoms were suppressed and in which a totalitarian type of anti-Semitism paraded under the mask of a spurious kindness toward Jews. Despite dictatorial restraints, Mr. Mirelman reported, the Jewish community of Argentina has contributed to the preservation of liberal and democratic attitudes among Argentinian Jews and non-Jews alike.

"We advanced the appreciation of Jewish traditions and values and the strength of ties with Jews everywhere. We developed acceptance of the proposition that Jews are entitled to full membership in our national community on the basis of equality with other elements in the population. We promoted Jewish education and opened the way to better understanding among Jews and Christians."

AUSTRALIAN PREMIER ADDRESSES DINNER OF VICTORIA JEWISH COMMUNITY

MELBOURNE, April 16. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Robert G. Menzies of Australia said Sunday night that the Jewish people have as much right to occupy their ancient homeland of Palestine as any people in history. He declared that he would never regard as honest any settlement of the Middle East problem that did not restore Israel's independence and freedom from fear around its boundaries.

Mr. Menzies spoke at a dinner attended by nearly 600 members of the Victoria Jewish community, tendered in his honor on the eve of his departure on a visit to Japan. The Australian statesman lashed at President Nasser of Egypt and warned that international cooperation could not be synonymous with unbridled individual sovereignty. He charged that the United Nations had been bowing to Nasser with "whispering humbleness."

CANADIAN JEWISH GIRL WINS ART COMPETITION SPONSORED BY INDIAN GOVT.

MONTREAL, April 16. (JTA) -- A 16-year-old Montreal Jewish girl has won the art competition sponsored by the Indian Government over 37,000 competitors, she was notified today by the Indian High Commissioner in Ottawa.

The girl, Judith Laiken, of Cutremont High School, submitted the portrait of a Negro boy in the International Children's Contest in which more than 37,000 youthful painters from 60 countries participated. She will receive the President's Gold Medal to signify her victory - the first time this medal has been won by a Canadian.

ZALMAN SHAZAR, JEWISH AGENCY LEADER, ARRIVES IN UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- Zalman Shazar, member of the Jewish Agency executive in charge of cultural activities, arrived here today for a ten-day visit. Mr. Shazar came from an extended tour of South America where he participated in numerous cultural and Zionist activities.

DR. NATALIO BERMAN, JEWISH LEADER, DEAD; WAS MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SANTIAGO, Chile, April 16. (JTA) -- Dr. Natalio Berman, noted physician, author and former member of the Chilean Congress, died here Sunday night. He was 49.

A native of Odessa, Russia, Dr. Berman was brought to Chile by his parents when he was seven years old. Dr. Berman received his medical degree at the University of Chile in 1930. He was elected to Congress in 1937 and served as a deputy for 12 years. He was a leading figure in the Santiago Jewish community and in pro-Israel activities. He had three books published, one of them a novel.