



# Jewish Telegraphic Agency

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### CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO STAGE TRIAL OF JEWISH LEADERS; RABBI ARRESTED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- The Communist Government of Czechoslovakia is preparing a public trial of a group of Czechoslovak Jewish leaders, including Rabbi Farkas, chief rabbi of Bratislava, according to information received here today.

The reports reveal that during the month of May, Czech authorities arrested 27 Jewish leaders and charged them with "Zionist activities." Recently several were released, but the remainder will be put on trial.

Reports from Rumania received here indicate the existence of widespread unemployment among Jewish professionals following mass dismissals from leading positions. The dismissals do not seem to have any anti-Semitic basis and the Rumanian Government is reported to be genuinely concerned as to how to solve the growing unemployment among Jews. This, it is hoped here, may influence the Rumanian authorities to permit the emigration of Jews to Israel to join their families.

### FRENCH FIRM SEEKS TO ACQUIRE BRITISH OIL INTERESTS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- Compagnie Francaise des Petroles, a French oil company which owns 25 per cent of the stock of Shell Oil Company, was reported here today to have expressed an interest in purchasing Shell's interests in Israel.

Shell's local director, A. P. de Boer, said today that no decision had been reached yet concerning the transfer of Shell assets. (In London, Shell officials had no comment on the report that Compagnie Francaise des Petroles was seeking to buy its property in Israel.)

Mr. de Boer, who sought to reassure Israeli employees of Shell about their jobs, noted that the current negotiations do not affect the Haifa refineries. Meanwhile, it was learned that talks between Mr. de Boer and Israeli officials were temporarily suspended today while the Shell representative awaits further instructions from his main offices in London.

### British Government "Explains" the Oil Withdrawal to Parliament

LONDON, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- The decision of the British Petroleum and the Shell Oil companies to withdraw from Israeli operations had its reverberations in the British Parliament today where questions were posed to the government regarding this development.

Under Secretary W. D. Ormsby-Gore, replying for the government, said that after the two British oil companies announced their decision to cease operations in Israel, their directors were seen by Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd. During the discussions, the Foreign Secretary established that "the decision was a commercial one," the Under Secretary told the Parliament.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore "explained" that the British Government holds shares in a variety of companies but that even where the government holds a controlling interest it is a "long established policy" not to interfere in purely commercial decisions. Where strategic issues are concerned, he continued, the government would expect to be consulted.

### U. N. TRUCE CHIEF REFUSES TO ACT ON ISRAEL'S COMPLAINT AGAINST SYRIA

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- United Nations truce chief Col. Byron V. Leary has refused to follow through on Israel's complaint against Syria for threats by the Syrian Premier against Israel, the Foreign Ministry announced today. However, Israel has protested the decision and has informed Col. Leary that it cannot accept the view that the UN truce machinery will not consider this complaint.

Official circles termed Col. Leary's decision a "serious blow to the effectiveness of the armistice machinery." They warned that the decision "cannot but prejudice full compliance with the armistice agreements." Israel's complaint against Syria was based

on Article I of the Israel-Syrian armistice pact which prohibits both aggression and threats of aggression by and against the signatories.

The Israeli view is that Col. Leary has no authority to refuse to investigate any complaint put before him, and it was underlined that nearly 100 complaints have been submitted by both sides under the terms of Article I and that in at least seven cases the truce machinery has handed down decisions under this clause. It was further stated that Israel feels that different standards have been applied to Syria and to Israel in the processing of complaints and that Israel is being barred from UN assistance.

The Israeli circles indicated that an intensive effort will be made to press for a solution of the matter. Either the UN Security Council or Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold may be asked to act in the matter, it was indicated.

#### ISRAELIS CLASH WITH JORDANIAN INFILTRATORS; THREE ARABS WOUNDED

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- An Israeli patrol and a gang of infiltrators from Jordan clashed yesterday in the Beisan area yesterday with three Arabs believed wounded, a military spokesman announced here today.

The Jordanians retreated across the border carrying their casualties with them, but bloodstains and marks on the ground were mute evidence that bodies had been dragged back into Arab territory. The infiltrators had penetrated more than 100 yards into Israel before they were apprehended by the patrol. An exchange of fire, begun by the Arabs, lasted over an hour and a half.

#### ISRAEL CHARTERS FOREIGN VESSELS FOR VOYAGES THROUGH SUEZ AND AKABA

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- The Danish freighter Ullia Danielson is scheduled to make a run between Elath, Israel's southern port, and Abdan, Iran, under charter to Zim-Shoham Lines of Haifa, it was learned today.

It is understood that the Danish-flag ship will carry a cargo of cement from Elath. Two other foreign vessels have been chartered by Zim for voyages to and from Haifa through the Suez Canal.

#### HEAD OF COPTIC CHURCH APPEALS AGAINST JAIL SENTENCE IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- Joachim el Anthony, head of the Coptic Church, who yesterday was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment following his conviction on espionage charges, filed an appeal today.

The brief submitted by his counsel stated, among other things, that he was found guilty of transporting across the demarcation lines three Israel Government Yearbooks which prosecution witnesses testified contained important information. The brief pointed out that the Yearbooks are available at overseas bookshops.

#### FRENCH TO REPLACE ENGLISH AS PRIMARY FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- The French language will replace English as the primary foreign language to be studied in the schools of Israel, it was announced here yesterday at the ground-breaking ceremony for the first French secondary school in Tel Aviv.

English has been an official language of Palestine and of the State of Israel with Hebrew and Arabic ever since the British conquest of the area in 1918. It was dropped as an official language last year, leaving Hebrew and Arabic as the official languages of the country.

The new school is being established here by the Alliance Israelite Universelle in cooperation with the Tel Aviv Municipality. At this school, the French Ambassador, Pierre Gilbert, told the audience at the ground-breaking ceremony, 1,200 pupils "will drink from the rich, French cultural wells."

Mayor Chaim Levanon, a speaker at the ceremonies, spoke warmly of French-Israel relationships, declaring French-Israel friendship did not start with the Sinai operation last year but many years ago when the Alliance established the first agricultural school at Mikve Israel and public schools in other Jewish centers in Palestine.

The new school is being built on the northern bank of the Yarkon River and is the first school set for that newly developed area. The school is near the proposed site of Tel Aviv's University City.

#### ARTHUR LOURIE NAMED ISRAEL AMBASSADOR TO CANADA; SERVED IN U.S.

OTTAWA, Ont., Aug. 1. (JTA) -- Arthur Lourie, assistant director-general of the Israel Foreign Ministry and for many years Israel Consul-General in New York, has been appointed Israel Ambassador to Canada, the embassy disclosed today. He will arrive here to take up his new duties the end of September. Like his predecessor, Michael S. Comay, who has returned to Israel, Mr. Lourie is a native of South Africa.

## JEWISH GROUP ASKS FOR U. N. ACTION ON REUNION OF FAMILIES

LONDON, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- In a memorandum submitted today to the conference of non-governmental organizations interested in migration affairs, the Agudas Israel World Organization called for more sympathetic consideration of the problem of reunion of families and, particularly, when persons concerned are refugees without homes and hope of resettlement.

The migration conference of the organizations accredited to the United Nations will open in Geneva next week. The Jewish group suggested that "the whole problem of reunion of families is one which requires urgent consideration and might well be the subject of United Nations action."

The memorandum noted that in many countries, including the United Kingdom, laws and regulations are such that "it does not follow that a husband can join his wife although the latter is a national of the country concerned." In the United Kingdom, "which has a most laudable record in relation to refugees," the memorandum noted, "an alien husband can only join his wife if she is of British birth and British parentage."

The memorandum contrasts these requirements with the Argentine regulations adopted in 1932 which permit immigration of "parents, grandparents, spouses, children, brothers and sister, grandchildren and blood nephews and nieces of aliens settled in the Republic."

## GERMAN COURT REJECTS APPEAL AGAINST ARREST OF 'BEAST OF BUCHENWALD'

BONN, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- The Superior Court at Bamberg rejected today an appeal against the arrest of Martin Sommer, known as the "Beast of Buchenwald," on charges of having committed 67 murders and participated in others during his stay as a SS official at the concentration camp. The court ordered him held in jail pending trial.

Sommer, who is charged with having personally beaten hundreds of Jews to death, escaped trial for the last seven years on the basis of physicians' rulings that he was "wholly unfit to stand trial." When arrested at Beyrouth last month, following a recent marriage, he was occupying a private room in a veterans hospital and drawing a substantial pension.

## 19 JEWS DEAD, 20 SEVERELY INJURED IN MEXICO CITY EARTHQUAKE

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- Nineteen Jews died and more than 20 were seriously injured in the earthquake which struck here Sunday, it was officially established today. Among those who lost their lives were the mother and sister of Alberto Benrey, president of the Sephardic community.

Many Jewish industrialists and merchants suffered directly and indirectly from the results of the quake. Numerous factories and offices have been destroyed. One building housing nine Sephardic Jewish families collapsed killing all but two of the inhabitants.

## HADASSAH ANNOUNCES STAND ON SPLIT IN GENERAL ZIONIST CONFEDERATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- The official position of Hadassah on the split in the World Confederation of General Zionists -- of which Hadassah is a member -- was outlined here today by Dr. Miriam Freund, national president of the organization, following her return from Israel where she attended the sessions of the Zionist Actions Committee.

"The World Confederation of General Zionists can operate only if it includes organizations not identified with any political group in Israel," Dr. Freund stated. She reiterated the view expressed last week in Jerusalem by Mrs. Rose Halprin, former president of Hadassah and acting chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency.

Dr. Freund said that Hadassah will continue -- to the extent that its resources permit -- to facilitate the absorption of immigrants into Israel through its vast network of hospitals, vocational training and social services. On the American scene, she said, it will cooperate in the implementation of the Actions Committee resolution calling for intensified education of Jewish youth and for appropriate observance of Israel's 10th anniversary.

"Despite the much-publicized differences between Premier Ben Gurion and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, there are broad areas of agreement between the two leaders concerning ultimate objectives," the Hadassah president declared in her statement; She stressed the "vital importance" of focussing attention upon the goals and hopes of Zionism as a means of helping to strengthen Zionist groups in the United States and elsewhere, which she regards as "basic for the future welfare of the State of Israel and the bonds which cement it to Jewry throughout the world." She said that the differences between Premier Ben Gurion and the world Zionist movement arose primarily over "the status and functions of the world Zionist movement, and not on matters of fundamental principle."

### KLUTZNICK NEGOTIATES \$30,000,000 HOME BUILDING PLAN IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- Philip Klutznick, president of B'nai B'rith and head of a group of American investors, has been negotiating with Israel Finance Minister Levi Eshkol for the establishment of an American investment corporation in Israel for the construction of possibly \$30,000,000 worth of housing developments in different localities in this country, Finance Ministry sources said today.

The negotiations are expected to be completed within the next few days. It is understood that Mr. Klutznick has already applied to the International Cooperation Administration in Washington for guarantees for the project.

A second project for which Mr. Klutznick is negotiating is the construction from scratch of a complete city at Ashdot Yam. It is anticipated that eventually 100,000 people will live in the city which will be near Israel's future deep water port on the Mediterranean coast.

### ADVOCATES OF MIXED SEATING IN SYNAGOGUE TO APPEAL TO HIGHER COURT

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- Advocates of mixed seating in the formerly Orthodox Chevra Thillim Synagogue here, planned today to appeal to the State Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari which would have the effect of holding up a temporary injunction against mixed seating issued earlier this week in civil district court by Judge Frank J. Stitch. The higher court will be asked to accept jurisdiction in the case.

Judge Stitch issued his injunction after eight days of hearing argument by both sides for and against mixed seating. In a 15-page verdict he said he had accepted jurisdiction in the case because "a trust and donation was shown to exist."

The court pointed out that "this case belongs to a class, happily rare in our courts, involving a religious controversy, and that, ordinarily, courts will not pass upon questions involving ecclesiastical matters unless a trust and donation, a civil right, is involved."

### NEW YORK PHILANTHROPIST BEQUEATHS \$241,000 TO HEBREW UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- A sum of \$241,095 has been bequeathed to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem by the estate of the late Abraham P. Lubell, New York City manufacturer and philanthropist, it was announced today by Daniel G. Ross, national president of the American Friends of Hebrew University.

Mr. Ross disclosed that the funds have been earmarked by the executors of the estate for the erection of a building to house facilities of the Jerusalem university's Faculty of Agriculture. The building will serve as a memorial to Mr. Lubell's parents, Benedict Isaac and Golda Rebecca Lubell. Abraham Lubell died here in December 1955, at the age of 81.

### ISRAEL RECEIVES FIRST ORDER FROM BURMA FOR IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- Israel industries received today their first order from Burma for irrigation equipment. The order, amounting to \$150,000 was mainly for light alloy pipes and fittings.

The order was placed after the Burmese authorities accepted irrigation plans prepared by an Israel expert in preference to proposals by German and Austrian irrigation engineers. The plan accepted by the Burmese was prepared by S. Gichon, an Israel irrigation expert, now serving as an advisor to the Burmese Government.

### TWO U.S. JEWISH AUTHORS WIN LITERARY PRIZES IN ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- Two American Yiddish authors, S. Miller of Los Angeles and Dr. Shlomo Simon of New York, were the recipients here of the 1956 prizes for the best works in Yiddish literature. The prizes of 5,000 pesos each were presented at a ceremony by Mrs. Gitl Stoliar, wife of Mordecai Stoliar, the late publisher of the Yiddische Zeitung, in whose memory a fund was established to encourage Jewish writers through annual awards for the best works of the year.

Speakers at the ceremony, which marked the sixth anniversary of Mr. Stoliar's death, included: Marc Turkow, representative of the World Jewish Congress; Hirsh Trywaks, general director of the DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry; Joseph Horn, chairman of the jury which voted the awards, and others. The speakers emphasized the role which the late Mr. Stoliar played in promoting Jewish culture in Argentina.

### U.S. GOVERNMENT TO CONTRIBUTE \$61,000 FOR JEWISH NURSING HOME

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1. (JTA) -- The Department of Health, Education and Welfare today made known that it has agreed to pay an estimated \$61,000 toward the construction of a new nursing home at the Jewish Convalescent Hospital in Baltimore, Md. The total cost of the project, which provides the convalescent home with a new 34-bed facility adjacent to the existing one, has been estimated at \$220,950.