



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXIV No. 209 - 39th year Friday, November 1 1957

HULEH DRAINAGE - ISRAEL'S LARGEST DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - IS COMPLETED

TEL AVIV, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Engineers touched a button today to blast the final barrier between the southern tip of Lake Huleh near the Syrian border and a newly-built canal leading the lake's water to the Jordan River, thus completing Israel's largest single development project.

Spectators quietly watched the water drain from the 3,500-acre lake, uncovering new areas to be converted into fertile land from swamps.

The project involved building of straight canals to replace the winding Jordan River bed which has been too narrow to carry all the water. The building of the network of irrigation canals was the subject of constant Syrian efforts at interference because a section of the canal is located in the Syrian-Israel demilitarized zone.

Children at Hulata, a fisherman's settlement, were among the fascinated observers as the edge of the water receded, signifying a major change in the life of the settlement -- a switch from a fisherman's to a farming economy.

Swamp Lands Converted Into Fertile Fields

The entire lower lake area was expected to be drained within 48 hours, turning 60,000 dunams of swamp into land containing more than 40 percent of organic matter of great fertility.

Work on the Huleh project was first started in 1951 by the Jewish National Fund. It involved deepening of the Jordan River bed south of Lake Huleh for accumulation of the waters to be drained later. The second stage, under direction of the Construction Aggregates Corporation of Chicago, brought heavy equipment to the job of dredging eastern, western and northern canals with a connecting network of smaller canals.

Eventually, the irrigation experts said, a total of 15,000 acres of new cultivable land will be created and the project also will provide 65,000,000 cubic meters of water for irrigation purposes, part of which will be used outside of the Huleh region. The final eradication of sources of malarial infections also will be achieved.

MOSHE SHAPIRA IMPROVES, ALLOWED VISITORS FOR FIRST TIME

JERUSALEM, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- The condition of Moshe Shapira, the most seriously injured among the five Cabinet ministers wounded in Tuesday's Knesset bombing, showed a marked improvement today. He exchanged notes with a neighboring patient in Hadassah Hospital. Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, who also was reported recovering steadily from splinter wounds in the hand and who was expected to leave the hospital Saturday.

The Minister of Religious Affairs was permitted visitors today for the first time. One of them was Sephardic Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim. Mr. Shapira told the Chief Rabbi he had been deeply moved by reports of the prayers recited in his behalf in synagogues in Israel and in the United States.

Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, limping slightly but smiling, was released from the hospital this morning after treatment for leg wounds. She told reporters she expected to attend tonight's gala dinner at the King David Hotel here for the 100-man United Jewish Appeal study mission.

Moshe Carmel, the Minister of Transport, who suffered a broken arm when the hand grenade exploded near the Minister's table in the Knesset during a foreign policy debate, may be able to leave the hospital in a week or so, hospital authorities said.

Moshe Douek, the 25-year-old grenade thrower, was arraigned in magistrate's court this morning and entered a plea of guilty to charges of attempted murder. Magistrate Yaacov Bazak ignored a plea from Douek, an immigrant from Iraq who has a record of treatment for mental illness, that "there is no need to keep me behind closed doors in order to carry on a trial," and granted a police request for a 15-day detention.

An official police communique tonight stated that no evidence had been found that Douek had any accomplices or that his wholesale assassination attempt had any motive except personal ones due to his mental condition. Inquiry established that the hand grenade he used and two others found at his home had been stolen from the army.

EBAN CONFERS WITH DULLES ON RECENT MIDDLE EAST EVENTS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban met with Secretary of State Dulles today for about an hour in which they exchanged views on recent events in the Middle East from the viewpoint of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. The meeting dealt with the effects of these great powers relations on the interests and security of countries of the Middle East. Mr. Eban reviewed problems Israel has to face in the political and economic spheres.

State Department sources indicated today that the United States Government feels Israel displayed commendable restraint during the recent Syrian crisis.

U.S., BRITAIN MAY TACKLE BASIC ISRAEL-ARAB DIFFERENCES

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 31, (JTA) -- The United States and Britain are contemplating tackling "basic" differences between Israel and the Arab States within the near future. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed today. These developments would involve pressures upon Israel at least in connection with the problem of Arab refugees--possibly also on behalf of Britain, for concessions in terms of "territorial adjustment."

The possibilities of action arose in connection with the Washington conferences between President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Harold Macmillan of Britain and the setback to the Soviet Union's Turco-Syrian war-scare strategy. Out of the latter situation, according to one informed source, arose another possible threat to Israel. King Saud of Saudi Arabia is being credited with having helped deflect the course of the Turco-Syrian crisis" and, consequently, is in a strong position to demand some return from the West.

What he is believed ready to seek is the backing of the West for an all-out campaign to halt Israel shipping through the Strait of Tiran and the Gulf of Akaba, thus choking off Israel's port of Elath at the head of the gulf.

Both the United States and Britain were said to be determined to press Israel for concessions in regard to the Palestine Arab refugees. The possibility was seen that Secretary of State Dulles would renew the offer he made to Israel in 1955 of aid in securing substantial loans with which Israel could compensate the Arab refugees. But even if such loans were made, Israel might be requested to accept at least 100,000 of the Arab refugees as "a token of cooperation."

Meanwhile, with or without American backing, Britain was considered quite likely to push its own plan for a "solution" of Israel-Arab tensions by requesting Israel to allow its territory to be cut down. Sir Anthony Eden, Mr. Macmillan's predecessor, made such a proposal some years ago and the suggestion was flatly rejected by Israel. Now Mr. Macmillan is said to be entertaining the same idea.

The Israel "territorial adjustment" problem and the question of the Arab refugees were two points on a six-point agenda relating to the Middle East which Mr. Macmillan reportedly tried to put before President Eisenhower last week. The President, on the advice of Mr. Dulles, declined to accept these points although he was willing, reportedly, to discuss the other four points which dealt with proposals for the offer of economic aid to the Middle East, including Israel. It is understood that Mr. Macmillan was informed that the Administration would not tackle the two questions at this time.

COMMISSION CONDEMNS ISRAEL FOR ATTACK ON JORDANIAN AIRLINER

JERUSALEM, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- The Jordan-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission condemned Israel today for "flagrant aggression" against Jordan in connection with the firing by an Israeli fighter plane at a Jordan civilian plane.

The Commission declared that on October 19, the Israeli fighter flew 15 miles beyond the frontier, intercepted the plane, a Dakota, and tried to force it to fly toward Israel. The Commission also asserted that in the 20 minutes involved, the jet made firing and non-firing passes at a 50-yard range allegedly endangering the crew and passengers.

The Commission called on Israel to prevent any similar incidents in the future.

State Department Discloses U.S. Protest to Israel on Plane Incident

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- The State Department disclosed today that it had communicated the views of the United States to Israel on the incident involving an Israel fighter plane and a Jordan civilian airliner and had made it clear that a nation like Israel, which had lost a commercial airliner when it strayed accidentally over the Bulgarian frontier in 1955, should exercise restraint in firing on commercial planes. Department officials indicated that the American protest was a routine matter and that exceptional importance was not attached to the issue.

The Times of London said today in a Beirut dispatch that "some unusually sharp notes" had passed from Secretary of State Dulles to Premier Ben Gurion on the incident with the American warning that "unprovoked attacks" on passenger planes cannot be tolerated. The Times correspondent said the notes pointed out that Air Jordan, operator of the plane that was attacked, was 50 percent American-owned and its planes are operated largely by American crews.)

U. J. A. STUDY MISSION ASKS U.S. JEWS TO RAISE EXTRA FUNDS FOR ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- The hundred-man study mission of the United Jewish Appeal concluded its whirlwind survey of the situation in Israel tonight by adopting a resolution calling on the American Jewish community to give the UJA a mandate for next year to seek sufficient funds above the regular campaign for the complete absorption of the 80,000 immigrants who arrived in this country during the past year and the 70,000 anticipated arrivals from Eastern Europe and other countries this year.

Premier David Ben Gurion, who was to have been the principal speaker at the dinner to the delegation tonight, was unable to attend, but from Hadassah Hospital where he is recovering from injuries received in a madman's assassination attempt, sent the delegation a nine-point program of action. He listed the following tasks:

First, welcome absorption and integration of hundreds of thousands of immigrants, including many from Eastern Europe; second, complete integration of the new immigrants already arrived in Israel; third, long-range irrigation program including the Jordan River project; fourth, settlement of the Negev for agriculture and industry and communications, including a large port city at Elath; fifth, establishment of peaceful relations with the Arabs; sixth, preparation of the country for utilization of peaceful atomic energy; seventh, strengthening of the pioneering spirit of the people; eighth, raising educational standards and, ninth, strengthening of Israel's bonds with world Jewry.

In a reference to the Syrian situation, the Premier described it as grave but said, "we are meeting this new situation without panic, determined to press on with our development programs."

Earlier in the day, the members of the mission were received by President Hitzhak Ben Zvi who presented each one with a scroll formally inviting him to return next year to participate in Israel's tenth anniversary celebrations.

ISRAEL SPENDING ONE MILLION POUNDS DAILY ON DEFENSE NEEDS

TEL AVIV, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Israel is spending one million pounds a day for defense needs. Shimon Peress, director general of the Defense Ministry, said today at a meeting marking the first anniversary of the Sinai campaign. He revealed that for nine months before the jump-off on last October 29, many millions of pounds of munitions had been flowing into Israel. He estimated the quantity of this arms and ammunition at 40,000 tons.

In an outline of the objectives of the defense set-up, Mr. Peress stressed the importance of raising a new generation of scientists to meet Israel's needs for modern military equipment. Other objectives, he asserted, were to provide the armed forces with adequate arms of a quality to stand up against the huge arsenals being acquired by the Arab states, and to contribute to the continued industrial and agricultural development of the country, with particular emphasis on making the Negev fertile.

Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan, Army Chief of Staff, said that the successful Sinai drive had ended four years of Arab wars of attrition against the development of the Jewish State.

EGYPT, BONN REPORTED IN DEAL ON NON-RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

FRANKFURT, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Officials of the Egyptian consulate here hinted today that an agreement had been reached with the West German Federal Republic that Egypt would not recognize East Germany as long as the Bonn Government refrained from diplomatic recognition of Israel.

The Egyptian officials also said, at a reception for their Consul General here that Egypt was on the point of recognizing the puppet East German regime in October but that President Nasser cancelled the plan at the last moment.

They suggested that Nasser changed his mind when the Bonn Government broke diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia for recognizing the East German Government and at the same time gave assurances to Egypt that the Federal Republic would not enter diplomatic relations with Israel under present circumstances. They added that as long as West Germany adhered to non-recognition of Israel, Cairo would reciprocate in regard to East Germany.

SOCIALIST YOUTH PARLEY CALLS FOR DIRECT ISRAEL-ARAB PEACE TALKS

ROME, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- The fifth Congress of the Socialist Youth International adopted a resolution today stressing the need for concerted action to bring the Arab nations and Israel together for direct peace talks without prior conditions.

The resolution also emphasized the need for a settlement based on the protection of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations concerned.

The resolution asked the United Nations to guarantee unimpeded access for all peaceful shipping in the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Akaba. The delegates also hailed Israel's constructive achievements based on "Socialist principles," on the eve of the Jewish State's tenth anniversary, and saluted Israel's Socialist youth.

AUSTRIA FAILS TO MEET OBLIGATIONS TO NAZI VICTIMS, JEWS CHARGE

VIENNA, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- The Austrian Government has failed completely to meet obligations toward Jewish victims of Nazism it assumed in the Austrian State Treaty, Austrian Jews charged today.

At a joint meeting of the World Council of Jews from Austria and the board of the Federation of Austrian Jewish Communities, it was decided to submit to the Austrian Government a list of demands approved by the two organizations last Summer. Also discussed at today's meeting were demands of Austrian Jewish victims of Nazism against West Germany. The delegates agreed to establish a coordinating office in London.

AUSTRIAN NAZI GETS TWO MONTHS FOR SINGING HITLER SONGS

VIENNA, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- A fanatical Nazi, Arthur Miechanitsch, was sentenced today to a two-month jail term for singing Nazi songs in public. He has already spent several terms in jail for this offense.

TWO JEWS ELECTED TO TURKISH NATIONAL PARLIAMENT

ISTANBUL, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- Election of both Jewish candidates of the Democrat Party to the Grand National Assembly, the Turkish Parliament, in last Sunday's national elections was confirmed today. They will be the only Jewish members of the new Parliament which will be the first in the history of the Turkish Republic to have more than one Jewish member.

The new Jewish deputies are Isaac Altabev, 62, president of the B'nai B'rith in Istanbul and chairman of the central committee of Jewish charitable and social institutions in the city, and Yusuf Salman, 69, only Jewish member of the Istanbul City Council and former secretary-general of the Grand Rabbinat's Lay Council.

Jewish voters in Istanbul apparently gave strong support to the incumbent Democrat Party in preference to the Republican People's Party, the main opposition, and the Freedom Party which, it had been anticipated, would attract many Jewish voters. The issues in the election were primarily domestic.

ST. LOUIS SUBURB GOES TO COURT IN FIGHT AGAINST NEW TEMPLE

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- The City of Creve Coeur, a suburb of St. Louis, has announced that it will appeal to the Missouri Supreme Court a lower court's decision last August instructing it to issue a building permit to Temple Israel, oldest Reform congregation in St. Louis.

Creve Coeur's action came as something of a surprise, in view of the fact that the lower court decision had been greeted with wide public approbation. It is expected that Catholic and Protestant groups will file new briefs in support of the Temple when the case comes to the state's highest tribunal.

Temple Israel had filed a suit against Creve Coeur asking the St. Louis County Circuit Court to declare "discriminatory and unconstitutional" an action of the Creve Coeur Board of Aldermen who amended a local zoning regulation to prevent the Temple from building on property it purchased for that purpose three years ago.

The country court, in the first such decision in the history of Missouri, ruled that the Creve Coeur zoning amendments violated the free exercise of religion guaranteed under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution.

This decision was hailed by representatives of all the major faiths in St. Louis as a victory in the struggle of religious congregations against restrictive zoning ordinance. The local Catholic Archdiocese and the Protestant Metropolitan Church Federation had filed "amicus curi" briefs in support of the Temple's suit.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS AWARD GOES TO DROPSIE COLLEGE

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress 1956 Stephen S. Wise Award in the field of advancement of Jewish education, culture and scholarship has been awarded to the Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning.

The award--\$1,000 and a plaque--was presented to the college for its work in opening new facets of knowledge for scholars of all faiths and nationalities working in the fields of Hebrew, Semitics, rabbinics, Bible, Jewish Education and Middle East subjects. The presentation was made by Dr. Israel Goldstein, AJC president, to Dr. Abraham A. Neuman, president of the college.

ISRAEL MINISTER PRESENTS CARDINAL SPELLMAN WITH GOLD MEDAL

NEW YORK, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph Burg, Israel's Minister of Posts, presented Francis Cardinal Spellman today with a gold medal awarded to his collection of stamps at a recent international philatelic exhibition in Israel. One of the features of the Cardinal's exhibit was religion in postage stamps.