



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXIV No. 220 - 39th year Tuesday November 19, 1957

BEN GURION REJECTS NEUTRALISM; PARLIAMENT VOTES TO SUPPORT HIS STAND

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18, (JTA) -- Appearing in the Parliament of Israel for the first time since he was wounded there by a madman's hand grenade, Premier David Ben-Gurion--his injured leg still shoeless--closed a foreign policy debate by firmly rejecting the left-wing's proposals that Israel alter its foreign policy in the direction of neutralism. The Premier was upheld in a vote of 63 to 12, after his 70-minute address.

Explaining in detail the reasons why the Israel Government found it impossible to adopt a neutralist policy, the Premier voiced a long and sharp criticism of the Soviet Union--noticeably much sharper than his remarks opening the debate a month ago.

Mr. Ben Gurion, summing up instead of Foreign Minister Golda Meir, who is at home nursing her injured foot hurt in the same bomb attack, insisted that Israel's position in the international situation was markedly improved over what it was two years ago. He assailed and rejected all prophecies of doom and trumpeted his faith that the free nations still have the power to deter aggression.

Most of his biting oration was aimed at refuting the remarks of two deputies--Yaacov Chazan, leader of the Mapam, a member of the government coalition, and Yochanan Bader, fiery deputy of the opposition Herut. Only during the first few minutes, as he paid tribute to the memory of Col. Nehemiah Argov, his military aide who committed suicide two weeks ago--when he wept openly--did the Premier appear to be other than the biting, slashing prophetic figure so familiar to the Knesset membership.

Explains Why Israel Cannot Achieve Neutrality; Assails Russia

Replying to Mr. Chazan's demand for neutralism, the Premier asserted that neutralism was possible in two forms alone--that all nations of the world concede Israel the sort of neutral status granted Switzerland, or that Israel be neutral in its dealings with all nations.

The first is not possible, he continued, because the Arab states--neither the pro-Soviet nor the pro-Western states--are not prepared to grant Israel neutrality. Nor have the rest of the nations of the world indicated a desire to grant Israel such a status, he said. Indeed, he added, there was no reason that they should single out Israel as sacrosanct without similar guarantees to Belgium, Hungary or other countries. The United Nations, he said, could not be depended upon to guarantee Israel's security as Israel had learned in 1948 and in 1951 when the Security Council ordered an end to the Suez blockade of her shipping.

As for Israel's neutrality toward other nations, Mr. Ben Gurion noted that Israel desired equally good relations with all states and was working in that direction. But this did not depend on Israel alone, he pointed out.

It was not Israel but the Soviet Union which had breached an oil supply and trade agreement, Mr. Ben Gurion reminded his listeners. "Several times we asked the Soviets for scientific assistance but they have not responded, but we showed no resentment. When we received such minor favors as the photographing of (Jewish and Hebrew) manuscripts (in Soviet museums) we were grateful," he declared.

"When the Soviet press uttered baseless slanders against us," he said, "we were silent. We allow the Israel Communists to tell lies about the United States and the Soviet Union. Shall we," he asked sarcastically, "forbid non-Communists from telling the truth about the United States and the Soviet Union? Would that be neutrality?"

He denied Mr. Chazan's charges that the Western-oriented Bagdad Pact was aimed at establishing a base for an attack on the Soviet Union or that its conclusion had led to the Soviet-Egyptian arms deal. He stressed that he loved the Bagdad agreement no more than did the Mapam.

Is Ironical on Proposal for Suggested Neutralization Policy

With broad irony, the Premier described the neutralization policy suggested by Mr. Chazan as a "modest and praiseworthy wish," but interjected that neither Mr. Chazan nor anyone else had invented the "magic wand" to achieve it. The Premier made short shrift of a Herut proposal that Israel conclude a treaty with France. He asked for, and received,

Knesset support for removing from the agenda the motion which was obviously aimed at placing him in the embarrassing predicament of opposing a pact with a warm ally.

He defended Lester B. Pearson, former External Affairs Minister of Canada and Nobel Peace Prize winner, whom Mr. Bader had slashed at in passing. The Premier disclosed that Mr. Pearson had assisted Israel in acquiring Sabre jet planes whose deliveries were halted at the last minute when Israeli troops marched into the Sinai Peninsula. He expressed his gratitude to the Canadian plane manufacturer who returned Israel's purchase price when export licenses were cancelled, permitting the Jewish State to use the funds to purchase planes elsewhere.

Ben Gurion Dismisses Herut Suggestion to Block Suez Canal

A Herut suggestion that an attempt be made to block the Suez Canal and otherwise interfere with the Egyptian economy in its dependence on the Nile, the Premier dismissed as "tantamount to suicide." To Peretz Bernstein, General Zionist leader, he said that the government could not have explained beforehand its intentions concerning Sinai. To have breached secrecy, he asserted, would have endangered the campaign and laid Tel Aviv and Haifa open to bombardment.

To the world at large, the Premier reiterated that peace in the Middle East is possible only on the basis of negotiating with Israel as it is; anyone who counsels truncating Israel, he stated, advocates continuation of the Middle East tension. For the benefit of friend and foe alike, Mr. Ben Gurion called Israel's current foreign policy the "right one and not ineffective--our international position today is much better than it was two years ago."

The most stringent security measures were in effect while he spoke. The visitors gallery was half empty. Newspapermen and guests were checked several times and their every move was under surveillance of secret service men and uniformed ushers.

DULLES AND PINEAU TO DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST ISSUES IN WASHINGTON TALKS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18. (JTA) -- The Middle Eastern situation is on the agenda that will be discussed here in talks opening tomorrow involving French Foreign Minister Christian Pineau and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

While the discussion will revolve about the Tunisian arms issue, the role of Syria and Egypt as centers of Soviet influence in the Mediterranean and increasing Russian naval activities in the region will also be discussed.

HUNGARIAN ACTOR ACQUITTED IN ISRAEL; GOVERNMENT DECLINES COMMENT

TEL AVIV, Nov. 18. (JTA) -- Zoltan Gregus, Hungarian actor charged with indecent assault against a 12-year-old Israeli girl, was acquitted in Magistrate's Court here today on the grounds that there was insufficient evidence on which to base a conviction.

The Hungarian Government, in a series of protests and the expulsion of three Israeli diplomats from Budapest, had charged that the actor was "framed" by the Israeli authorities. The Foreign Ministry declined comment today on the Gregus acquittal.

In releasing the defendant, Magistrate M. Ben Tal said that he believed the girl, but that since this was a charge of indecent assault it would require corroborative evidence to support her story. The girl had accused Gregus of rape, but the Israeli prosecutor had taken the case into court on the lesser charge.

YEMENITE RABBI SENTENCED IN ISRAEL FOR SORCERY; GETS 18 MONTH JAIL

TEL AVIV, Nov. 18. (JTA) -- A 42-year-old Yemenite rabbi was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment today following his conviction on charges of having practiced sorcery promised to sell the crown and throne of Biblical King Solomon and in other fashions obtained money under false pretences.

The rabbi, Ovadia Bareti, was accused of obtaining 10,000 pounds from Medard Barzilai on the promise of obtaining for him the Biblical treasure, the appointment as the Messiah and the appointment of heir to King Solomon. The rabbi is said to have played on Barzilai's credulity with "letters of fire" written on his typewriter.

The letters to Barzilai purported to come from the Archangels Gabriel, Michael and Raphael and from the Almighty. The return address was always in care of Rabbi Bareti. The rabbi appointed his wife, mother of nine children and pregnant with her tenth, treasurer for the monies the "Archangels" had instructed Barzilai to deposit.

WORLD CONGRESS OF FRENCH NON-JEWISH NEWSPAPERMEN OPENS IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Nov. 18. (JTA) -- The fifth world congress of the International Association of French Newspapermen opened here today with 40 delegates from nations throughout the world attending. This is the first time that the non-Jewish group held its sessions in the Jewish State.

The newspapermen, who met in Tel Aviv's "Journalists House," were greeted by Dr. Joseph Burg, Minister for Communications, on behalf of the Israel Government.

TURKISH-ITALIAN MEDIATION IN ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE SEEN POSSIBLE

ROME, Nov. 18. (JTA) -- President Giovanna Gronchi of Italy hinted today, following his return from Turkey where he and other Italian officials discussed Middle East problems with leaders of Turkey, that a basis for solution of the Israel-Arab conflict might be found in acceptance by Israel of a limitation of its immigration policies.

He offered that suggestion, based on a reciprocal Arab acceptance of Israel's existence as permanent, in commenting on a communique covering the Italian-Turkish talks. According to the communique, Israel-Arab relations and the possibility of Italian-Turkish initiative toward peaceful conditions in the Middle East were among the principal themes discussed at the meetings in which Italian Foreign Minister Giuseppe Pella also took part.

"The Israel question continues to be the perturbing element in the Middle East," the communique declared, adding that "Italy and Turkey recognize the necessity for a prompt start for a search for a solution." The Italian leader stressed that the forthcoming NATO conference "must discuss" Middle East peace and security, although the area is outside of the geographical boundaries of the NATO alliance.

Mr. Gronchi suggested that Israel might substitute for its present principle of unlimited immigration a policy of restricting immigration to emergencies such as the case of the Egyptian Jewish refugees.

U. N. DIRECTOR REPORTS ON NEED FOR FUNDS TO MAINTAIN ARAB REFUGEES

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 18. (JTA) -- The General Assembly was warned here today by the head of relief activities for Arab refugees that, unless the member states of the United Nations are willing to come through with enough funds to care for the refugees adequately in 1958, the "vulnerable local economies" of the Arab states are likely to be seriously affected.

Henry R. Labouisse, director of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, voiced this warning before the Assembly's special political committee as the group opened its annual debate of the Arab refugee problem. Already certain programs for rehabilitation of refugees have been curtailed and others have been eliminated altogether because of lack of funds, Mr. Labouisse said. In effect, he told the Assembly, that it is up to the UN to decide what to do--but the situation is extremely grave.

FRATERNAL GROUPS TO START \$3,000,000 DRIVE FOR ISRAEL BONDS

NEW YORK, Nov. 18. (JTA) -- A \$3,000,000 campaign for Israeli bonds was undertaken yesterday by representatives of 3,000 Jewish fraternal orders at a planning assembly here. More than 500 leaders attended the all-day conference and heard Meir Sherman, Israel's Economic Minister to the United States, and James G. McDonald, first United States Ambassador to Israel, stress the importance of Israel bond investment funds.

The representatives of the fraternal orders passed a resolution pledging that within the next ten months their organizations would provide \$3,000,000 for housing in Israel. Mr. McDonald, who had served in Israel during the formative years of the republic, said that Americans of all faiths and creeds have purchased Israel bonds since 1951. This, he stated, is concrete evidence of America's faith in the new State and in the future of its people, who represent democracy in the Middle East.

Z.O.A. REPUDIATES MIAMI PARLEY ON CONFEDERATION OF GENERAL ZIONISTS

NEW YORK, Nov. 18. (JTA) -- "The so-called Conference of Representatives of the World Confederation of General Zionists in Central American countries, convened by Dr. Israel Goldstein in Miami last week, does not represent anybody and certainly not the World Confederation of General Zionists," Jacques Torczyner, chairman of the World Zionist Affairs Committee of the Zionist Organization of America, declared here.

Mr. Torczyner stated that he was speaking officially in behalf of the ZOA. He said that "with the exception of a delegate from Mexico, who has been associated with the Progressive group that split off from the Mexican Zionists' organization long ago, the few individuals who arrived in Miami at the invitation of Dr. Goldstein only represented themselves."

CONFERENCE OF JEWISH LEADERS IN BOSTON DECIDES TO HELP J. N. F. PROJECT

BOSTON, Nov. 18. (JTA) -- More than 800 delegates representing New England Jewish communities and leading organizations affiliated with the land program in Israel pledged to help support the newest Jewish National Fund project in Israel--the Adullam Development--at the annual "Land for Israel" conference of the New England Jewish National Fund held here yesterday.

New England will help raise funds to reclaim 100,000 dunams of land in Israel and to establish 17 villages in this Jerusalem border area and to provide housing and employment for thousands of immigrants arriving daily in Israel. Mendel H. Fisher of New York, executive director of the Jewish National Fund, addressing the session, reported that U.S. Jewry contributed \$225,000,000 for land purchase and land development since the JNF began.

Z. O. A. NATIONAL PARLEY DISCUSSES PLANS FOR HEBREW EDUCATION IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Nov. 18, (JTA) -- Plans for the promotion of adult Hebrew education and for the encouragement of Hebrew Day Schools in the United States were discussed here yesterday at an all-day national conference on Hebrew education held under the sponsorship of the Zionist Organization of America.

The conference heard criticism of current methods in the teaching of the Hebrew language coupled with proposals for a more basic study of Hebrew through the learning of the deeper meanings of Jewish thoughts, ethics, and literary creations which would influence the student's everyday living as Jews. Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, chairman of the ZOA Committee on Hebrew Education and Culture, presided.

Attended by several hundred leaders in Zionist and Hebrew educational activities in the metropolitan area, the conference heard addresses by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, ZOA president; Dr. Samuel Blumenfeld, director of the Department of Education and Culture of the Jewish Agency; Dr. Leon A. Feldman, director of the Department of Adult Education. Jewish Education Committee, New York; and others.

In his introductory address, Dr. Tenenbaum cautioned against "wishful futuristic thinking" and urged that "in order to survive, American Jewry must build its cultural environment on the solid foundation of our Hebrew tradition and of the great American dream of a free humanity." To this end he said that "we must give our children the basic understanding of the glory and kinship of both the Hebraic and American civilizations."

Speaking of the progress of Jewish Education in America, Dr. Blumenfeld urged that special attention must be given to the rise and development of the Hebrew all-day school. He said that unlike the lukewarm attitude toward the day schools on the part of the Jewish community in the past, "in more recent years, due to the devout labors and efforts of the dedicated elements in the Jewish community, the all-day school has found a secure place in the scheme of Jewish education in America."

FLORIDA COMMISSION HARASSES BROKER FOR SELLING PROPERTY TO JEW

MIAMI, Nov. 18, (JTA) -- Duncan MacGregor, the Palm Beach broker who is under fire from the Florida Real Estate Commission for selling property to a Jewish buyer, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that reports he had had his license revoked were incorrect.

The broker, who sold the property in 1936, said that the owner of the property, H. K. Allard, had filed a complaint with the commission. Allard contended that Mr. MacGregor had sold a plot to the Jewish buyer despite his knowledge of Allard's desire that none of his property be sold to Jews.

The commission thereupon issued an order to the broker to appear for a hearing on why his license should not be revoked. The broker applied to circuit court for a notice to quash the order. When the circuit court declined to act, the issue was taken to the Florida Supreme Court, with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith filing a brief as "friend of the court" in the case.

The broker told the JTA he had no idea when the state Supreme Court would act on the appeal but that his license had not been revoked by the commission and that "we are doing a very good business, indeed." The ADL brief challenged the right of the State of Florida to enforce indirectly restrictive practices in the sale of real estate.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS WEEK" LAUNCHED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

NEW YORK, Nov. 18, (JTA) -- National American Jewish Congress Week was launched here yesterday with a breakfast meeting at which the principal speaker was Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts. During the week, which has been proclaimed officially by mayors and governors in various cities and states, the Congress will stress the "unfinished business" of the American democracy which include problems affecting citizens of every race, color and creed.

FRENCH AND BRITISH JEWISH VETERANS HONOR FALLEN JEWS IN LONDON

LONDON, Nov. 18, (JTA) -- For the first time, a contingent of French Jewish veterans joined thousands of British Jewish ex-servicemen and women in the annual Jewish Remembrance Parade here yesterday. Sir John Slessor, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, reviewed the parade on the Horse Guard Parade Grounds.

At a memorial service in the evening, where the French veterans standard was stacked among those of many British groups, George Bean, president of the Anglo-Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Organization, called for remembrance of the six million Jews martyred by Nazism as well as those who had fallen in battle. He spoke of the debt owed Israel for taking in hundreds of thousands of homeless refugees.

MOSHE ICHILOV, ACTING MAYOR OF TEL AVIV, DIES; VICTIM OF ASIAN FLU

TEL AVIV, Nov. 18, (JTA) -- Moshe Ichilov, acting mayor of Tel Aviv and a prominent member of the Herut, died here. He suffered a heart attack following a bout of Asian flu.