



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXV No. 46 - 40th year

Friday, March 7, 1958

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO EASE SUNDAY LAW FOR SABBATH OBSERVERS

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- The City Council of New York voted today to ask the State Legislature to authorize businessmen who close their establishments on Saturdays, in observance of the Sabbath, to remain open on Sundays. The vote was 14 to 7, much higher than the simple majority which had been expected in view of the opposition that had developed earlier.

The action, under the home rule provisions of the city charter, clears the way for action in the Legislature for a bill changing the city's Sunday blue law. The council vote came on a request by Mayor Robert F. Wagner. The formal request by the Mayor helped assure the victory today, because without it a two-thirds vote would have been required in the council.

The change had been urged by a variety of Jewish groups, including the Synagogue Council of America, representing Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jews, a variety of Orthodox organizations and the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League. These groups had argued that forcing observant Jews to remain closed on Sundays as well as Saturdays put them at an economic disadvantage in relation to their competitors. It was also noted that giving a citizen the choice of which day to observe and which day to close was in keeping with constitutional guarantees of religious freedom.

Rabbi Theodore L. Adams, president of the Synagogue Council, hailed the City Council's action as an important reaffirmation of the fundamental democratic principle of religious liberty. He noted that the Synagogue Council has been active in urging the passage of this measure for two reasons: "First, the Jewish community of New York represents the largest Jewish population group in America; second, the precedent created by New York legislation in this area of Jewish religious concern will affect profoundly similar legislation in communities across the nation."

(In Trenton, N. J., representatives of Jewish and other religious groups which observe the Sabbath on Saturday urged today the defeat in committee of bills before the New Jersey Assembly calling for regulation by law of Sunday observance. The groups, which will testify at a public hearing here next Wednesday, are: American Jewish Congress, Seventh Day Baptists and Seventh Day Adventists. In their statement, the three voiced their opposition to "Sunday legislation as being un-American and un-Constitutional.")

FRANCE RELEASES PLANE DOWNED IN ALGERIA EN ROUTE FROM ISRAEL

PARIS, March 6. (JTA) -- The B-17 en route from Israel to South America which was forced down last week at Bone, Algeria, by engine trouble will depart for Lydda airport tonight, together with the plane which brought a spare engine and a gang of mechanics, it was announced here.

However, though the Flying Fortress and its crew have been released, the three-ton cargo of arms valued at \$80,000 remains impounded in Algeria under a French customs detention order. The Israel Government has explained that the arms were sold to a friendly Latin American Government and were in Algeria only in transit and in accordance with a previously filed flight plan which called for stopovers at Algiers and Dakar.

Meanwhile, the French Government has decided not to publish any official statement on the incident. The Israel Government will not protest detention of the plane and the holding of its cargo in order not to jeopardize relations with France. It is believed here that the incident has been blown up all out of proportion because of inter-ministerial rivalry in the French Government.

Israeli military attache Col. Pl. Kadar left Algiers after vainly trying to contact the crew of the B-17, which includes one Israeli national. He hoped to contact the crew before it took off for the return flight to Lydda.

The six-man crew was engaged in Israel to fly the plane, sold to an American company just prior to this flight. The arms, including several hundred bazookas, four mortars and 100 submachine guns, and the plane were sold by the Israel Ministry of Defense as obsolete.

HAMMARSKJOLD CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF VISITING THE MIDDLE EAST

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 6. (JTA) -- Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold is seriously considering the possibility of visiting the Middle East later this month. If the trip materializes, he hinted strongly today, he would visit Iraq, possibly Saudi Arabia, and some of the other countries of the region.

The announcement of this tentative plan here was made in answer to a question at a press conference. Mr. Hammarskjold was asked about the truth or fallacy of a report-- which was considered highly reliable--that he would send Dr. Francisco Urrutia of Colombia as a personal political representative to look into the situation regarding the new Arab federations. He was also asked whether, if he did not send Dr. Urrutia, he was contemplating going himself.

Mr. Hammarskjold replied: "The denial about a plan to send Ambassador Urrutia was quite correct. That report was pure invention. As to sending someone else, nothing can be said about that today. As to myself, if I get away next week there may be time between my visit to Moscow and my visit to London, and I have looked into the possibility of visiting the Middle East. It is not a specific mission, if it comes about.

"As you know, I have been in the Middle East many times, but because of the situation, because nothing called for my visit, I left certain countries off my travel map. It might be a good idea, therefore, to look into the situation in the region--it might be helpful to fill out the picture in that region. If my trip there comes about, however, it will have no political significance."

Mr. Hammarskjold is scheduled to be in Moscow March 16, and in London on March 31. Thus he will have at least a week between his visits to the Soviet and British capitals. When he referred to countries in the Middle East he has never visited before, it was ascertained that he had never been in Iraq, Saudi Arabia or Yemen.

Says Transfer of Hadassah Equipment from Mt. Scopus Hit Snag

Mr. Hammarskjold was also asked to comment on the fact that Israel has not yet received any of the Hebrew University books or Hadassah Hospital surgical equipment from its enclave atop Mt. Scopus. Jordan agreed two months ago, when Dr. Urrutia was in the region to settle the Israel-Jordan dispute over Mt. Scopus, to allow Israel to retrieve the books and equipment.

Mr. Hammarskjold replied: "These transports from Mt. Scopus were to have been part of the first stage and an integral part of the plan worked out by Ambassador Urrutia. However, we have run into some difficulties and therefore this first stage has not yet started."

In answer to another question, the Secretary General said that the Secretariat's studies regarding the legal and political aspects of the two Arab mergers have been completed. But, he added, he cannot go further into the questions involved pending formal adoption of the constitutions and other formal steps by the merged Arab states.

ISRAEL PRESENTS VIEWS TO U. N. ON \$100,000,000 FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 6. (JTA) -- Israel urged the United Nations today to make sure that the \$100,000,000 fund for special development projects in underdeveloped countries, voted by the last General Assembly, be used in a manner "not influenced by political considerations."

The last General Assembly voted in favor of establishing the special fund, but requested Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold to ask all member governments and the UN specialized agencies to suggest methods for the use of the money.

Mr. Hammarskjold today made public a number of governmental comments, Israel among them. Assuring the United Nations that it would make every effort to contribute to the special fund, just as in the past it had supported the United Nations expanded program for technical assistance, Israel called the attention of the Secretary General to the fact that "certain economic development projects are also politically significant."

Israel then suggested that the executive body of the new fund must work in such a way as to cross political boundaries or political differences. While the wording of Israel's comment was strictly formal, it was believed to refer to Israel's desire for use of money from the special fund for Middle East regional projects like the Jordan River Valley plan.

After Israel's comment about the special fund had been circulated here, Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold stated that "the monies from that fund can usefully be employed also on a regional basis rather than only on a national basis like the funds allocated for technical assistance."

ISRAEL PRESIDENT INVITED TO BELGIUM; EXPECTED TO VISIT DURING SUMMER

JERUSALEM, March 6. (JTA) -- President and Mrs. Ben Zvi have been invited by the Government of Belgium to visit the Brussels International Fair, it was announced today. They are expected to visit Belgium during the summer.

FINANCE MINISTER SAYS RESTITUTION WILL NOT AFFECT GERMAN CURRENCY

BERLIN, March 6. (JTA) -- There is no reason to fear that restitution payments by Germany to victims of the Nazi regime will endanger the stability of the deutschemark, Bonn Finance Minister Franz Etzel told a press conference here. He noted that restitution was scheduled to be paid out of tax funds and would not therefore affect the currency situation.

Several months ago, Justice Minister Fritz Schaeffer and Herr Etzel's predecessor in the finance post, charged that compensation to Jewish victims of Nazism would top \$6,000,000,000 and threaten the stability of the nation's currency. At the press conference here, Herr Etzel disassociated himself completely from the Schaeffer premise.

A new voice has been raised among those who wish "re-examination" of the Bonn compensation program for Jews and others who suffered under the Nazis. This time German Party deputy H. Schleiter has charged that the law is open to "misuse." The rightist deputy was recently identified with a group which demanded government compensation for "victims of denazification."

COMMUNIST GERMANY CONFISCATES BOOK ON HORRORS IN NOTORIOUS NAZI CAMP

BONN, March 6. (JTA) -- The East German edition of a volume describing the horrors of the Auschwitz concentration camp by two former inmates has been confiscated by the authorities, it was reported here today.

According to the dispatch the books were ordered seized because a foreword by Hermann Langbein, head of a group of Auschwitz survivors, made reference to the existence of concentration camps today in "certain countries." The book, "The Death Factory," was written by Ota Kraus and Erich Kilka and published originally in Czechoslovakia.

SWITZERLAND ACCEPTS GERMAN ENVOY CHARGED WITH DEPORTATION OF JEWS

GENEVA, March 6. (JTA) -- Switzerland has accepted as West German Ambassador Ernest Gunther Mohr, the target of charges of involvement in the Nazi persecution of Jews, it was reported here today.

Press revelation of plans to appoint Mohr touched off a controversy in which Swiss newspapers charged that as Deputy Chief of Missions in Holland for the German Reich during the Hitler period, Mohr participated in the mass deportations of Dutch Jews. The Bonn Foreign office denied the charges and the Swiss Government said it would investigate.

Subsequently, the Swiss Foreign Office agreed to accredit Mohr. Max Petiplier, Swiss Foreign Minister, issued a three-part explanation: That all German diplomats during the Third Reich period were Nazi party members; that inquiries in Holland showed Mohr was not personally involved in the deportations; and that such premature disclosures as the advance notice on Mohr's appointment were "frequently committed" by the press.

PRESIDENT OF BERLIN JEWISH COMMUNITY SAYS NAZIS REGAIN HIGH POSTS

BERLIN, March 6. (JTA) -- The extent to which well known former Nazis are being placed in high posts of the West Germany Republic is "really frightful," Heinz Galinski, president of the Jewish community of Berlin, declared in an interview here today.

He charged that in response to neo-Nazi developments, even the Social Democratic Party does not always take a strong enough stand. This is particularly true in the various provincial governments where the Socialists are part of a coalition government, he said.

Speaking of the role of the Central Council of Jews in Germany--of which he is a leader--he said that it was opposed to "liquidation" of Jewish communities in Germany, though it took no stand on propaganda urging Jews who left Germany to return.

The Council, he also noted, favors the integration of Jews into the German economy, a program which Chancellor Konrad Adenauer has promised to aid. Finally, he noted that the Council would soon establish youth centers, such as now exist for Jewish young people in this city, in Munich, Frankfurt and Dusseldorf.

ISRAEL SEEKS TO CHECK PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN JEWS IN DEMONSTRATIONS

JERUSALEM, March 6. (JTA) -- The Ministry of the Interior moved today to prevent participation of overseas visitors in demonstrations by asking police to provide names of nationals involved in such disturbances.

Informed sources said that when proof of involvement is established, the Ministry will blacklist such persons and refuse them permission to visit Israel again. In serious cases, the Ministry may order departure of such nationals before the expiration of their visa permits.

The Ministry request followed the arrest recently of four visiting Yeshiva students in the demonstrations last month by the ultra-Orthodox Neturei Karta against a swimming pool in Jerusalem in which mixed bathing will be permitted. Two of the students are Americans, one is British and one is an Argentine.

THOUSANDS CELEBRATE PURIM IN JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV STREETS

TEL AVIV, March 6. (JTA) -- A festive Purim atmosphere dominated Israel today with thousands of children and youth in fancy dresses filling the streets and adults frolic-ing at fancy dress balls.

The festivities were climaxed in midday when several thousand young people par-ticipated in a youth carnival which attracted thousands of Israelis who had flocked into Tel Aviv starting early Wednesday.

A reading of the Scroll of Esther took place in the Great Synagogue of Tel Aviv and it was relayed by the Kol Israel radio to remote corners of Israel, bringing the religious flavor of Purim to every part of the country.

In Jerusalem where Purim is celebrated a day later, in keeping with custom, the festival was ushered in tonight with a reading of the Book of Esther on Mt. Zion and on Mt. Scopus, where a tiny Israeli force stands guard over the ridge-top enclave.

Receiving the new Soviet Ambassador, Mikhail Bodrov, who presented his credentials today, President Itzhak Ben Zvi served Hamentachen, the Purim pastry. In a private conversation, in Russian, the President explained the traditional significance of the pastry to the Ambassador.

GOLDA MEIR GETS ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION IN GHANA; WILL STAY 11 DAYS

ACCRA, Ghana, March 6. (JTA) -- Israel's Foreign Minister Golda Meir, the only foreign Cabinet member invited to participate in the official celebrations of Ghana's first independence anniversary, was given an enthusiastic reception since Monday when she arrived for an eleven-day stay in this country.

Her days have been crowded with official and unofficial functions, including a meeting with Premier Nkrumah, a reception and a dinner by the Premier in her honor, and luncheon with Governor General Lord Listowel. Mrs. Meir is scheduled to confer again next week with Premier Nkrumah. Her itinerary includes visits to Ghanaian villages and addresses to student groups, women's clubs and other grass roots organizations.

She will leave here for the French Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Dakar. She came from a five-day visit to the Republic of Liberia where her stay took on the semblance of a triumphal tour. The warmth of her reception everywhere is interpreted as significant evidence of the successful promotion of Israel-West African friendship.

MRS. HALPRIN STRESSES SHORTAGE OF PHILANTHROPIC FUNDS; LEAVES FOR ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency, left today by air for Jerusalem to attend a meeting of the Jewish Agency executive, the supreme legislative body of the World Zionist Organization between Zionist congresses. The meetings will be devoted to a review of the Jewish Agency's budget for the fiscal year 1958-59.

Mrs. Halprin stated that the critical shortage of philanthropic funds makes it increas-ingly difficult to meet adequately the Agency's responsibilities in its three major fields of operation: rescue immigration, rehabilitation of Israel's newcomers, and cultural and educational activities in Israel and in the Diaspora.

She indicated that one of the most urgent points on the Actions Committee's agenda was the problem of reducing the critical absorption backlog which has piled up during pro-longed periods of mass immigration to Israel. On her way to Jerusalem, Mrs. Halprin plans to stop over in London to attend a meeting of the reorganized World Confederation of General Zionists.

PROTESTANT CHURCH OPPOSES POSTING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN SCHOOLS

ALBANY, N. Y., March 6. (JTA) -- The New York State Council of Churches, a Pro-testant group, opposed today a bill before the State Legislature to post copies of a so-called non-sectarian Ten Commandments in public schools. Similar opposition was voiced by Jewish organizations.

In a memorandum to the Legislature, the Council charged that the bill trod on "very dangerous grounds," contravened state and national constitutional provisions on freedom of religion and actually "reflects one religious point of view." The Council expressed the belief that enactment of the measure would "create sectarian division, arouse confusion and controversy between public schoolchildren on the one hand, and, on the other, destruc-tive dissension in the adult and parental community."

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE TO CONFER DEGREES ON H. LEIVICK, L. BERNSTEIN

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- H. Leivick, noted Yiddish poet, and Leonard Bern-stein, the prominent conductor-composer, will be the recipients of honorary degrees from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion on March 31, it was learned here today. Mr. Leivick will be given the honorary degree of Doctor of Hebrew Letters.