Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXV No. 131 - 40th year Wednesday, July 9, 1958

KNESSET STARTS DEBATE ON CABINET RESIGNATIONS; HEARS RELIGIOUS MINISTER

JERUSALEM, July 8. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament began today a lengthy and acrimonious debate stemming from the United Religious Party's quitting the Ben Gurion coalition over the legal definition of a Jew.

The debate began after two last-minute attempts to avert an open break failed this morning. Premier David Ben Gurion had called his Cabinet into a special session hoping to find an acceptable formula, and Joseph Sprinzak, Mapai leader and Speaker of the House, had consulted with Religious bloc leaders trying to postpone the debate. Neither move achieved its purpose.

Moshe Shapira, ranking Religious Minister in the Ben Gurion Government who resigned the Religions portfolio, told the Knesset this afternoon that since the state was proclaimed ten years ago his party had cooperated with every government in an attempt to "serve as a bridge between observant and secular Jews." If the Religious Party were now to accede to the new government regulations--which accept for nationality purposes that every person who so declares himself is a Jew--it would help destroy this bridge, he added.

He challenged the sincerity of the leftists in the government, asking: "Why this sudden war on religion?" Mr. Shapira insisted that the answer to the question of "who is a Jew" had been clear for thousands of years and asserted it was most ironic that this question had to be raised in the tenth year of the new State of Israel. He expressed himself as regretful, hurt and ashamed that the government was thus attempting to undermine Judaism.

Religious Authorities May Institute Their Own Genealogic Register

The Religious Party leader asserted that the religious tests of Jewishness had not worked hardships on either non-Jewish mates of Jews or upon their children. Most of these people had recently become Jews through conversion and the isolated few who had not, could, if they wished, attend church and were free and unmolested in their religious freedom and their civic rights, he said.

If the government continued in its present path, he warned, religious authorities would be obliged to institute a genealogic register to protect standards of Judaism. He hit Premier Ben Gurion for having criticized, in his exchange of letters with the venerable Rabbi Judah L. Fishman, the rabbis' stand in this matter.

It was not the rabbis who had imposed Jewish law, Mr. Shapira pointed out. They merely preserved criteria of Jewishness which were thousands of years old.

He categorically rejected charges of religious coercion on the part of religious interests in Israel. On the contrary, the former Minister for Religions charged, it is the government which has failed to respect the religious rights of its citizens by sending children of observant parents to secular schools and into settlements where religion is not practiced.

The only religious law affecting personal status on Israel's statute books, he continued, was that on marriages and divorce. This had become the law of the new state by vote of Parliament and in the interests of the unity of the Israeli people, he pointed out.

TENSION CONTINUES ON ISRAEL-SYRIAN FRONTIER; ISRAEL RESUMES RECLAMATION

TEL AVIV, July 8. (JTA) -- Tension continued high today in the Ashmoura settlement area adjoining the Syrian border where Israel has resumed land reclamation activities following several attacks by the Syrians last week. Heavy equipment, in the past prime targets for Syrian gunners, have begun digging and bull dozing.

Israeli military authorities reported today that in the fighting in the Ashmoura vicinity, the Syrians for the first time used Soviet anti-tank equipment. The weapons, of 1955 manufacture, are similar to weapons captured from the Egyptians in the Sinai campaign.

HAGANAH DECORATION PROVOKES DISPUTES IN ISRAEL; SHARETT FEELS SLIGHTED

TEL AVIV, July 8. (JTA) -- A Haganah decoration, giving official recognition to the pre-state Jewish defense force, was the center of a heated dispute today which involved not only leaders of the one-time Herut underground organization but also leaders of Mapai who had been active in the formation and direction of the Haganah.

Members of the right wing Herut, political successor to the underground Irgun army, were the first to protest the award of state decorations to only one underground organization. Subsequently, prominent Haganah leaders like Gen. Johanan Ratner, former Prime Minister Moshe Sharett and others also protested the procedure of awarding the decoration.

The most widely-publicized correspondence was that between Mr. Sharett and Shimon Peress, general director of the Israel Defense Ministry who was directly responsible for distribution of the decoration. Mr. Sharett, who was one of the founders of Haganah and responsible for its activities for a time, was not invited to attend the major decoration award ceremony at which Prime Minister David Ben Gurion made the awards to prominent Haganah leaders.

It was reported that a few days later, Mr. Sharett received the application form for the decoration and replied with a protest against the "lack of knowledge of Haganah history" in the award idea and with an ironic thanks that "at last you have remembered me." He refused to accept the decoration despite an assertion by Premier Ben Gurion that he regretted the "mistake" of the Defense Ministry in not inviting Sharett to the ceremony. Oved Ben Ami, former mayor of Nathanya and regional Haganah commander and a founder also did not receive the decoration.

ISRAELI TEACHER SENTENCED FOR GIVING SECRET INFORMATION TO JORDAN

TEL AVIV, July 8. (JTA) -- An Israeli, 29-year-old Haim Abergal, has been sentenced to four years' imprisonment following his conviction at a secret trial on charges of espionage and endangering the security of the State of Israel.

According to information released after the trial, Abergal, a teacher, crossed the lines into Israel in 1957 and while in Jordan gave the enemy secret information regarding specific Israel army installations. The prosecution asserted that it was "lucky" that Abergal had no more information than he had obtained, but asserted that what he had told the Jordanians was damaging in itself.

BONN CRITICIZED FOR NOT SEEKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

BERLIN, July 8. (JTA) -- Dr. Erich Ollenhauer, leader of the German Social Democratic Party, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here today, criticized the failure of the West German Federal Government to establish diplomatic relations with Israel and expressed concern that it had "already missed the most favorable opportunity to do so."

The German political leader declared it "untenable" that the Federal Government had modified its policies because of threats by other states which did not like the idea of German-Israel diplomatic relations--a reference to pressures put on Bonn by the Arab States.

On the question of anti-Semitism, the Social Democratic leader said that not everything that could had been done in Germany to end the remnants of Nazism and anti-Semitism. He felt that had these problems been solved before now, democracy might have stood on a "better and more steady foundation" in West Germany.

Herr Ollenhauer, while he admitted the existence of anti-Semitic instances in German life, felt that occasionally the world press bore down too heavily--for easily understood reasons, he said--in its reporting of isolated occurrences. At the same time, he insisted that all democrats must treat seriously the problem of guaranteeing unconditional equality to all human beings regardless of race, religion or color.

He held that the recent attacks on German restitution to Jews and reparations to Israel by Justice Minister Fritz Schaeffer were "deplorable" and might help spark a new increase in anti-Semitism in this country.

CONVENTION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS URGES U.S. TO GIVE ISRAEL MILITARY AID

MIAMI BEACH, July 8. (JTA) -- The United States Government was urged here today to give the State of Israel military as well as economic aid. This view was urged at the opening of the 22nd annual convention of the Rabbinical Council of America by Rabbi Zeev Segal, convention chairman. Some 500 rabbis are attending the parley.

In his presidential address, Rabbi Solomon J. Sharfman recommended that the organization make determined efforts to improve Jewish all-day schools in every major Jewish community in this country, develop a nationwide summer camp and adult institute program and that both rabbis and lay leaders expand adult Jewish education curricula. He also urged that young rabbis be encouraged to enter rural and suburban communities and that pre-fabricated synagogues be built where congregations are unable to erect more costly structures.

ANTI-JEWISH SPEECH BY COMMUNIST LEADER STIRS INDIGNATION IN CANADA

MONTREAL, July 8. (JTA) -- An anti-Jewish speech delivered at a meeting of the Ontario Communist Party by a leader of the party, who was introduced under the party name Yakir, has provoked indignation in the press here following publication of the full text of his speech, which was circulated to all Communist clubs in Ontario "for information purposes."

The speech, which follows the line of the anti-Jewish interview given by Nikita S. Khrushchev, Soviet Premier, in Moscow to the French newspaper Le Figaro last April, was devoted to the fact that Jews are leaving the Communist Party en masse in protest against the suppression of Jewish cultural life in the Soviet Union. Declaring that Jews, more than other people, have acquired "bad traits" because of the abnormal situation in which they lived for 2,000 years, the Canadian Communist leader said:

"Why have Jews come to the party and have gone away? Jewish workingpeople, who have come to Canada 30-40 years ago, came from Eastern European countries where they were oppressed socially and nationally without rights, lived in poverty. It was natural that they should pin their hopes for a better life inthe revolutionary struggle to change their conditions of life for the better, and they joined in the fighting ranks. And living in Canada at that time in conditions of poverty and exploitation, they continued their struggle through the Communist Party.

"With the beginning of the secnd world war, Canada entered a period of war and post war prosperity and large sections of Jewish workers took to business, opened up small shops, and in time they regrouped themselves socially. Things here were not too bad; they became prosperous.

"Why did non-Jewish workers fail to become prosperous? We know from experience that in the capitalist countries Jews have been discriminated against, have not been permitted into the basic industries of the countries. The Jew remained therefore, in the light industries and in commerce. A miner cannot open up a mine in his house, an automobile worker cannot establish in his home an automobile plant. It takes millions to do it, apart from this.

"A needle trades worker can indeed put up a sewing machine in his cellar, and he has a shop. A Jewish peddler takes a suitcase with small articles, goes from door to door trying to sell, and he is already a merchant. A Jew has historic inclinations to commerce, and in prosperity years he worked himself up. A wage earner in the basic industries can never, in the years of crisis or in the years of prosperity, become well-to-do. At present the largest part of the Jews no longer belong to the working class, engaged in production of goods, in factories and plants.

"It is, therefore, understandable, why they left the party. A party of Communists is not a charitable institution. Since they no longer belong to the working class, they don't any more see in the party the defender of their social interests. Correct is the principle; with the change in the social position, the social outlook and thinking also changes.

"For a considerable time they were thinking of leaving the party. They didn't have enough "courage" for such a step. The more "courageous" had left before. They were waiting for such an opportunity and such an opportunity arrived. Jewish culture in the Soviet Union. Behind this screen they found it possible to hide petty ambitions, the truth, their cowardice, and they left."

POLISH AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATE NAZI MASS KILLINGS OF JEWS IN LIDA REGION

VIENNA, July 8. (JTA) -- The Association of Jewish Communities inPoland issued a world-wide appeal to survivors who witnessed the mass murder of 400 Jews at the railway station in Voronov, near Lida, in the fall of 1941. The massacre was committed by Byelorussian members of Nazi units during the German occupation of the Lida region. The witnesses have been asked to send eye-witness accounts to the headquarters of the Association in Warsaw, in connection with an investigation instituted by the Polish authorities against persons involved inthe Voronov murders.

The Association also asks for eye-witness material to be sent by survivors who escaped the mass shooting of more than 2,000 Jews on the road from Voronov to Lida inMay, 1942. Some of the information obtained so far by the Polish authorities indicate that a number of Jews succeeded in escaping during the two mass killings and are now in Poland, Israel and other countries.

Polish Government Reported Well Disposed Toward Jews

BUENOS AIRES, July 8. (JTA) -- The Polish Government is extremely well disposed toward Jews, Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Western Hemisphere executive of the World Jewish Congress, and Dr. Arieh Tartakower, a WJC official, told a press conference here.

Dr. Goldstein reported on the meeting of Western Jews with Jews fromthe Communist countries at last April's observance in Warsaw of the 15th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Rebellion. He noted that the Polish press had been friendly in its comments on Israel's 10th anniversary of statehood.

MONTREAL REAL ESTATE BOARD URGES END OF DISCRIMINATORY LISTINGS

MONTREAL, July 8. (JTA) -- The board of directors of the Montreal Real Estate Board, in a letter to all members of the trade association, has urged the elimination of discriminatory listings by all real estate dealers.

The letter, signed by Marcel R. Audette, board president, pointed out that the directors resolved unanimously to deplore the practice of accepting listings which carry discriminatory restrictions and to make every effort to end acceptance of such listings.

The Real Estate Board's action was occasioned by a letter from Monroe Abbey, chairman of the national executive of the Canadian Jewish Congress, who noted that acceptance of discriminatory listings was, "apart from the strict canons of morality," an "offense against democracy and good citizenship." Mr. Abbey specifically asked directors to set an example to other realtors by refusing to accept such listings. This the directors pledged to do.

CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS REPORTS RISE IN NUMBER OF JEWISH PHYSICIANS

MONTREAL, July 8. (JTA) -- The number of Jewish physicians and surgeons in Canada increased more than eight times in 30 years from 120 in 1921 to 972 in 1951, the Canadian Jewish Congress reported here on the basis of its study of the Jewish population. Women physicians, who numbered three pioneers in 1921, had increased tenfold by 1951.

Ontario had the largest number of Jewish physicians in practice in 1951, 325. Quebec was a close second with 308 and Manitoba was third with 130. One in every five Jewish doctors was in practice in towns and cities with populations of fewer than 100,000.

NON-JEWS IN EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA, PURCHASE $30,000 IN ISRAEL BONDS

EAST CHICAGO, Ind., July 8. (JTA) -- Non-Jews in East Chicago, Indiana, purchased $30,000 in State of Israel bonds this year to help the local Jewish community achieve a record sale of $100,000 thus far this year. This total was six times greater than total bond sales in 1957.

Heading the list of non-Jewish bond purchasers were Mayor Walter M. Jeorse and banker Walter J. Riley, each of whom bought $5,000 worth of the debentures. Mayor Jeorse's mother was one of the most active workers in behalf of bond sales in the Christian community of East Chicago.

MEMORIAL MEETING COMMEMORATING DR. HERZL AND BIALIK HELD IN N. Y.

NEW YORK, July 8. (JTA) -- Theodor Herzl's vision of a Jewish State which culminated in the creation of the State of Israel ten years ago, was commemorated tonight at a cultural meeting at the Hotel Roosevelt here honoring Herzl's memory and that of Chaim Nachman Bialik, the noted Hebrew poet. The anniversary of Herzl's death occurred today and that of Bialik takes place tomorrow.

The speakers, all of whom paid tribute to the statesman and the poet for their contributions to Jewish life and culture, included Maurice Samuel, well-known writer; Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council; and Y. Weingarten, educator, and general secretary of the Histadruth Ivrith of America. The meeting was held under the auspices of the American Zionist Council, Herzliah Hebrew Teachers Institute, and the Histadruth Ivrith of America.

Rabbi Miller, stressing the unity in Jewish life, asserted that the basic theme of Herzl was the unity of the Jewish people. "Out of that doctrine of unity, grounded in eternal Jewish thought, emerged Bialik's dream of a cultural and national center in the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people," Rabbi Miller continued. "The conscious, self-respecting Jew in Israel and in the Diaspora is still fired by this basic desire for Jewish unity and is resolved to let nothing in the life of the Diaspora or in the developing new nation in Israel divide the Jewish people."

TWENTY-SIX BOY SCOUTS TO REPRESENT THE U.S. AT JAMBOREE IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, July 8. (JTA) -- A group of 26 American boys who will represent the Boy Scouts of America at Israel's forthcoming National Scout Jamboree, were the guests of Israel's Deputy Permanent Representative to the U.N., Mordecai Kidron, at a reception at the offices of the Israel U.N. delegation here. The Boy Scouts, members of troops in various parts of the United States, were scheduled to leave for Israel today.

LEON GELLMAN, WORLD MIZRACHI LEADER, HONORED IN ISRAEL ON 70TH BIRTHDAY

JERUSALEM, July 8. (JTA) -- Leon Gellman, president of the central committee of the joint world movement of Mizrachi and Hapoel Hamizrachi, was honored here last night on the occasion of his 70th birthday and the appearance of his book "The External Destiny of the Nation." Present at the reception were Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim, former Cabinet Ministers Joseph Burg and Moshe Shapira, members of the Jewish Agency executive and of the Knesset.