



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

# DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

560 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Continued Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXV No. 132 - 40th year

Thursday, July 10, 1958

## BEN GURION, RELIGIOUS LEADERS RENEW TALKS ON IDENTITY CARD ISSUE

JERUSALEM, July 9. (JTA) -- Renewed efforts to solve the identity card issue which resulted in the resignation from the Israel Cabinet of the Ministers representing the National Religious Party were started here today by Premier David Ben Gurion, while the issue, involving the definition of a Jew, was under debate in the Israel Parliament.

According to informed sources, signs of progress were to be detected after lengthy talks which Mr. Ben Gurion held separately today with Moshe Shapiro, the former Minister of Religions, and Zorach Warhaftig, ex-Deputy Minister of Religions. Talks with leaders of the Religious Party will be continued by Mr. Ben Gurion tomorrow and Friday, in the hope of finding a solution before the Parliamentary debate is resumed next Monday.

During the talks today, the Premier and Mr. Shapiro offered various formulations of "who is a Jew," in the hopes of arriving at a mutually acceptable definition. While none of the formulas mentioned by either side was acceptable to the other, some of the proposals raised "may serve as a basis for further attempts of working and of bridging the gap" between the opposing views, informed sources indicated.

### Minister of Interior Defends Identity Card in Knesset Debate

Meanwhile, Israel Bar Yehuda, Minister of the Interior, addressing Parliament today, defended the disputed principle of self-identification as a Jew any Israeli citizen. He told the Knesset that this principle has been accepted repeatedly by the Chief Rabbinate.

Mr. Bar Yehuda, speaking as the first proponent for the government, appealed for reason rather than emotions and listed a series of previous registration regulations, including many issued while Mr. Shapiro was Interior Minister in which, he said, the applicant's bona fide declaration of Jewishness had been accepted as sufficient for registration purposes.

The Interior Minister also cited numerous specific decisions during the periods when Mr. Shapiro or the General Zionist's Israel Rokach as Interior Ministers supported the same principle, including the regulation that new-born children of mixed marriages could be registered as Jews if both parents so declared in a written declaration.

Challenging the argument of religious leaders that rabbinate outside of Israel would consider Israel identity cards as false concerning the Jewishness of card holders, Mr. Bar Yehuda said that when Mr. Shapiro was Interior Minister several years ago, the Chief Rabbinate had already issued instructions not to consider the identity cards as sufficient evidence of Jewishness.

He also listed a long-standing regulation that persons coming to Israel under the Law of Return--which permits every Jew to settle in Israel--should be considered as having by their immigration established prima facie evidence of their Jewishness.

Then he quoted from the Ministry's files letters from the Chief Rabbinate advising that there was no objection that Jewish nationality should be registered on the identity card of a Catholic monk converted to Judaism and similarly in the case of a woman who was converted to Christianity, but whose Jewish nationality had been accepted by Mr. Shapiro as Interior Minister for purposes of immigration.

### Religious Ministers Present Their Arguments Before Knesset

Moshe Shapiro, who once served as Minister of the Interior and who resigned as Minister of Religions, warned the Knesset that the self-identification by any Israeli as a Jew would have the "direst repercussions" abroad. He urged cancellation of that right, adding that "if introducing Christians into Jewry is more important" to the Prime Minister "than the unity of the nation, then the choice is up to you."

Joseph Burg, the resigning Minister of Posts, an Orthodox leader, made a strong emotional appeal for the cancellation of the registration and regulation on Jewish identity, which he called "neither logical nor decent." In a reference to mixed marriages among the immigrants, Dr. Burg said: "Should we for a small group, whose children's registration

as Jews is primarily involved, destroy the last barricade defending the Jewishness of tens of millions?"

The parties in the coalition hit back at the Religious speakers, charging them with insincerity. Mapai leader Avika Govrin challenged them to prove their interest in Israel's future and welfare by returning to a compromise move.

Achdut Avodah's Moshe Erem, hooting that the Religious Party was "importing Williamsburg to Israel"--reference to the ultra-Orthodox Jews to be found in the New York neighborhood--insisted that the Religious Party's ministers had resigned under the pressure of the Neturei Karta zealots.

Moshe Rittin, a Mapam spokesman, expressed regret over the resignations, but said that "our tolerance has reached the limit. The secular population," he continued, "will not tolerate coercion, neither the stoppage of traffic on the Sabbath or (a prohibition on) mixed bathing." He asserted that he was proud of the fact that the government had provided for the religious needs of the observant, but demanded "mutual respect on matters of conscience." At one point, he told the House: "We, too, have our faith."

#### Religious Bloc Receives Support from Herut and General Zionists

The Religious bloc received its first support today from its new allies--the opposition Herut and General Zionist parties. Me'ahem Beigin, Herut leader, declared that a Jew is unable to disassociate religion from nationality--as can other nations. He specifically accused the Ben Gurion Government of taking to itself the prerogative of determining who is a Jew. He expressed fear that this might lead to a severing of ties with Jews overseas.

Peretz Bernstein, lead of the General Zionists, took the position that the issue of identification of a Jew was a constitutional question which could not be resolved by an order from the Ministry of the Interior. He urged cancellation of the identity card regulations, restoration of the status quo and then appointment of a representative public committee to study the matter.

Meanwhile, Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog intervened today with a public statement warning against the "grave dangers" inherent in the new regulations. The statement said that the government-accepted definition of a Jew "threatens the unity, the very existence of the nation, sows confusion and discord among the people."

In view of the current controversy, the statement continued, Rabbi Herzog felt it his duty to reaffirm that a child born of a Christian mother is Christian and no human authority can transform a non-Jew into a Jew except through conversion.

(The Orthodox Beth Din of London sent a message today to the Chief Rabbinate in Jerusalem supporting the latter's fight against the Ben Gurion Government's decision to accept as the legal definition of a Jew any individual who so identifies himself. The message, signed by Ashkenazi and Sephardic Chief Rabbis Israel Brodie and Solomon Gacm, agreed with the Israeli Chief Rabbinate that if the government's regulations were allowed to stand, they would "surely disrupt Jewish family life, encourage mixed marriages in Israel and the Diaspora, and threaten the historic continuity and solidarity of the Jewish nation.")

#### POLAND EXPELS ISRAEL DIPLOMAT; ACTION PUZZLES ISRAEL GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, July 9. (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed "great surprise" today over the Polish Foreign Ministry's expulsion of Jacob Barmor, first secretary of the Israel Legation in Warsaw. The Israel diplomat was ordered to leave Poland within 48 hours.

The Polish announcement accused Mr. Barmor of "trying systematically to recruit Polish citizens for activities contrary to the interests of the Polish nation." Mr. Barmor, who had just completed a four-year tour of duty, had notified the Polish Government of his recall to Israel, prior to the sudden expulsion order.

The Israel spokesman said that Mr. Barmor had taken official leave of Polish officials "in the best possible atmosphere" shortly before the expulsion announcement and that top Polish officials had attended a farewell party for him.

Israel sources said there was no basis for the charges and that they had no idea what motivated the action. They noted that Israel-Polish relations had been developing "in the best spirit," including trade. They noted that recently relations had reached the point of visits by groups of Polish tourists to Israel.

(In Warsaw, Mr. Barmor said: "I was absolutely amazed. I have no idea at all what is behind this decision. It is most mysterious. Only one week ago I called at the Foreign Ministry to say my formal good-bye to officials there. Everyone was most pleasant.")

#### 1,300 NEW IMMIGRANTS ENTERED ISRAEL IN JUNE; MID-YEAR TOTAL IS 8,600

JERUSALEM, July 9. (JTA) -- Thirteen hundred new immigrants arrived in Israel this month, the Jewish Agency announced here today. This brings the mid-year total to 8,600.

ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA CONTINUES IN SOVIET PRESS, SURVEY ESTABLISHES

NEW YORK, July 9. (JTA) -- Anti-Jewish undertones continue to make themselves felt in the Soviet press, according to reports received by Jewish organizations here quoting numerous articles from newspapers in various parts of the Soviet Union. Anti-Jewish intent is especially noticeable in feuilletons, which are considered an important instrument for fashioning public opinion in the USSR.

A summary of feuilletons with anti-Jewish bite, published in the Soviet papers during the last 12 months, makes obvious the line which they follow. The word "Jew" never appears, but the "villain's" name is obviously Jewish; he is described as sleek and slimy, sly and mean, hard and unscrupulous, in the pursuit of his dishonorable aims, out to achieve private gain by foul means: swindle, fraud, excessive profits. He always seems to know his way about, and is able to wind his superiors around his little finger.

Along with the Jewish villain, there is also the Gentile villain who abets and protects the Jew. On rare occasions, a "good Jew" is counterposed to a "bad Jew."

This subtle technique is evident in at least an odd dozen feuilletons which have appeared during the past year in central Soviet papers, in the press of the Republics of the Soviet Union, or have been contributed to the central organs by correspondents from those Republics, the report received by Jewish groups here states. "Add the recent anti-Israel campaign in the Soviet press (Trud, Komsomolskaya Pravda, Literaturnaya Gazeta, Pravda Ukrainy, International Affairs, and others) and its frightening purpose to foster latent anti-Semitism becomes only too obvious," the report emphasizes.

JEWS IN FRANCE WELCOME APPOINTMENT OF SOUSTELLE: FOUGHT ANTI-SEMITISM

PARIS, July 9. (JTA) -- The appointment of Jacques Soustelle as a member of the de Gaulle Government was welcomed today in Jewish circles in France. In addition to his known pro-Israel stand, the new Minister of Information has fought anti-Semitism wherever it has appeared.

M. Soustelle, chairman of the rightist Franco-Israel Alliance, has consistently campaigned for a closer military relationship between France and the Jewish State. He recently expressed his belief that the present regime here would continue France's close ties with Israel. He has visited Israel on several occasions.

A. J. C. RAISES ISSUE OF SYNAGOGUE BOMBINGS AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

WASHINGTON, July 9. (JTA) -- There should be no great surprise at recent synagogue bombings in the South because resistance to Federal law by state officials invites "a complete breakdown of law and order," a spokesman for the American Jewish Congress testified today before a House Judiciary subcommittee.

Sanford H. Bols, Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress, told the subcommittee that "the bombings are an inevitable result of this official irresponsibility." He said: "No one should be greatly surprised at the recent outrages against Jewish places of worship in Nashville, Miami, Jacksonville, Birmingham and elsewhere by a group calling itself the 'Confederate Underground.'"

According to Mr. Bols, it may be that this group represents only the extreme lunatic fringe hating all minorities "yet there can be no doubt that these dynamiters believe, in their distorted minds, that they are following a line of action suggested to them by their state governments. They have been repeatedly told by high authorities that it is appropriate and desirable to flout the law whenever doing so will frustrate desegregation."

Mr. Bols appeared before the subcommittee to testify on behalf of legislation that would strengthen civil rights, promote integration, and provide the Attorney General with broader power to intervene.

MINISTER HERZOG CALLS FOR SPIRITUAL HARMONY BETWEEN U.S. JEWS, ISRAEL

MIAMI BEACH, July 9. (JTA) -- A call for the achievement of spiritual harmony between the people of Israel and Jews in the United States and other countries outside Israel was voiced here today by Yaacov Herzog, Israel Minister at the Embassy in Washington, addressing the 22nd annual convention of the Rabbinical Council of America. Some 500 of the council's 700 member rabbis are attending the parley.

The restoration of Jewish independence in Israel "enshrines" three principles of unity, Mr. Herzog declared: "The people of the Book has been united with the land of its original inspiration; the diverse communities of ingathering exiles have been welded into a common nationhood; and there is developing a sense of integrity with the past."

Turning his attention to current developments in the Middle East where Lebanon is torn by civil war and Arab intervention, the Minister asserted: "The course of development in the Middle East in the past year and a half has set the Sinai campaign in its proper historical perspective. Rarely indeed has an international issue, which at the time aroused the deepest political, legal and moral controversy, been vindicated within so brief a period."

BILL TO OUTLAW DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC PLACES DISCUSSED IN COMMONS

LONDON, July 9. (JTA) -- A bill to outlaw discrimination in public lodging houses and public places of amusement on grounds of race, religion or color received its first reading in the House of Commons yesterday. The bill was introduced by John Baird, Labor M. P.

FIRST GROUP OF SOVIET TOURISTS DUE IN ISRAEL; INCLUDES JEWS, NON-JEWS

JERUSALEM, July 9. (JTA) -- The first group of tourists from the Soviet Union to Israel is due in this country next week. The party of some 25 Jews and non-Jews is coming to Israel as part of a general tour organized by Intourist, a Soviet Government agency. Arrangements in this country are being handled by a private Israeli travel agency.

Visa applications filed by the Israeli firm last month were granted swiftly by the Israeli authorities. However, tourist officials here are reluctant to weigh the meaning of this development until after the first group arrives and after it becomes evident whether other Soviet visitors may be allowed to vacation in the Jewish State.

PHILADELPHIA JEWISH FEDERATION ANNOUNCES POLICY ON ALL-DAY SCHOOLS

PHILADELPHIA, July 9. (JTA) -- A resolution stating that the Philadelphia Jewish community will only support that portion of the Jewish all-day school's budget which pays for Jewish education, but not for that portion which underwrites general education, was announced here by the Federation of Jewish Agencies. The vote precluding support of secular education in the Jewish all-day school came after months of study by a special committee.

The resolution, adopted by a majority, reads: "Cognizant of its responsibility for the support and encouragement of Jewish education, and in view of the position of all-day schools in American Jewish life, the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia recognizes the right of these schools to its support for the sectarian aspects of their work. At the same time, Federation does not recognize the right to communal support, directly or indirectly, for the secular aspects of these schools."

ISRAEL TO HAVE SYNAGOGUE NAMED AFTER FATHER OF FORMER FRENCH PREMIER

TEL AVIV, July 9. (JTA) -- Bernhard Mendes-France, 23-year-old son of the former French Premier, Pierre Mendes-France, will visit Israel at the end of this month to take part in ground-breaking ceremonies for a new synagogue which will bear the name of the ex-Premier's father, Tavi David, who died six months ago.

The decision to name the new synagogue at Kfar Saba after the elder Mendes-France was announced by Chaim Nachmani, community leader in Kfar Saba, whose associations with the former French Premier date back to 1940 when both were imprisoned in Morocco. Mendes-France was detained after escaping from France during the Nazi occupation.

The friendship made in the Casablanca prison was maintained later through correspondence. When the French leader's father died, Nachmani decided to name the synagogue in his memory. The ex-Premier and his wife will attend inauguration ceremonies for the synagogue.

INDONESIAN PAPER URGES EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL FROM ASIAN SPORT GAMES

TOKYO, July 9. (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Third Asian Games Organization Committee here today criticized the Times of Indonesia, influential Indonesian newspaper, for suggesting that Israel and two other nations be excluded from the 1962 Asian games in Djakarta for political reasons.

In suggesting editorially that Israel, Formosa and the Republic of Korea be excluded from the games, the paper wrote: "To permit the Israelis to send their competitors here would bring to the breaking point our relationship with the Arab states. To ask Formosa would provoke an open breach with (Communist) China. As we have not established relations with either of the Koreans it would be wrong to let Seoul send its athletes to Indonesia."

Despite the fact that all three nations competed in the Third Asian games held last May in Tokyo, the Indonesian newspaper added: "It is our duty to let intending participants know who will and who will not be acceptable. It would be imprudent and in bad taste to invite Israel, Formosa and South Korea."

In Tokyo, a spokesman for the Third Asian Games Organizing Committee said, "An invitation from the organizing committee in Djakarta is unnecessary. If Israel, Formosa and the Republic of Korea want to compete, they can do so--with or without Djakarta's permission." The Straits Times of Singapore also took issue with the Indonesian newspaper and pointed out: "Indonesia cannot pick and choose her visitors. Every member of the (Asian Games) Federation has the right to compete in the games; the host country has no say."