



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

Contents Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXVI No. 7 - 41st year

Monday, January 12, 1959

ITALIAN PREMIER ADVISES NASSER TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL; LEAVES CAIRO

ATHENS, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Stopping off in the Greek capital following his five-day visit of state to the United Arab Republic, Italian Premier Amintore Fanfani told a press conference yesterday that he had "always stated and repeated that Israel exists and is an historical and geographical reality."

Later, sources close to the Premier confirmed to Mrs. Tullia Zevi, Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent who accompanied Premier Fanfani on his Egyptian visit, that the Premier had during his meetings with United Arab Republic President Nasser repeatedly emphasized the unanimous determination of Italy and the West to defend Israel's right to existence. The Premier also expressed the hope that Arab leaders would eventually recognize Israel's existence. The same source told the JTA correspondent that President Nasser seemed to admit the inevitability of such a move by the Arabs.

At the press conference, the Italian Premier reported that he and President Nasser had discussed in detail the situation of the Arab refugees. Premier Fanfani declared: "If, during the past three years the West had made fewer mistakes toward Egypt, the situation would be different today. The free world must help those who make an effort to better their economic and social standards. All those who seek and wish for equilibrium in this sector must help raise living standards with a view to eliminating the social and international imbalance."

(The West German Government this week-end recalled its Ambassador in Cairo "for consultations" in the first of two moves designed to underline its displeasure at the United Arab Republic's reception of East German Premier Otto Grotewohl and at the announcement that the UAR and East Germany would exchange consulates general. In another move heralding a possible break in relations between Bonn and Cairo, a Parliamentary delegation which was scheduled to visit Cairo during a tour of the Middle East was told to bypass the UAR capital.)

SITUATION OF JEWS IN EGYPT DESCRIBED TO J. T. A. BY CHIEF RABBI IN CAIRO

ROME, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Egypt which ten years ago numbered 66,000 men and women is currently down to 13,000 or 14,000 concentrated in Cairo and Alexandria and communities of Jews in the smaller cities and towns of Egypt no longer exist, Chief Rabbi Haim Nahoum of Egypt told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Rabbi Nahoum made his statements in an interview with Mrs. Tullia Zevi, JTA correspondent in Rome, who was one of the journalists to accompany Italian Premier Amintore Fanfani on a five-day visit of state to the United Arab Republic. Mrs. Zevi also interviewed the Jerusalem ex-Mufti and the Apostolic Nuncio in Egypt.

Rabbi Nahoum, who expressed regret and concern over the economic discrimination suffered by Egyptian Jewry, asserted that "real religious persecution does not exist in Egypt. Jews are free to celebrate their festivals," he continued. "For Passover, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur the government sends an official representative to the services."

"When the chief of a foreign state arrives in Egypt, the Chief Rabbi is invited to official receptions like the leaders of other religious groups," the Chief Rabbi reported. "At official dinners special kosher food is prepared for the Chief Rabbi."

Chief Rabbi Nahoum Conveys Message to the Jews of the World

Turning to a discussion of the hardships suffered by Jews in Egypt as a result of economic deprivation, Rabbi Nahoum said that the "tragedy" of Egyptian Jewry is that the young people, for whom it is practically impossible to find work, must emigrate. The older generation, left behind, finds itself in an extremely difficult economic situation.

The Chief Rabbi asked the JTA correspondent to transmit the following message to the Jews of the world:

"I wish for peace between nations and men. The progress of science has decreased physical distances, but has separated hearts. Love is necessary so that hearts may come closer again. I have hope, because every religious man who has faith in God and confidence

in himself must be optimistic. Let us hope that everything will become normal again. I am convinced that there will always be Jewish communities in Egypt."

Other leaders of Egypt's Jewish communities, with whom Mrs. Zevi spoke, expressed greater apprehension over the continuation of Jewish community life in Egypt and advocated greater economic and spiritual assistance by Jewish organizations. They revealed that most Jews in Egypt are now living on their savings since more than 80 percent of them have lost their jobs. They expressed the hope that representatives of Jewish organizations would visit Egypt soon to learn the desperate economic situation of Egyptian Jewish institutions.

Papal Nuncio Is Pessimistic on Settlement of Arab-Israel Conflict

Monsignor Oddi, the Apostolic Nuncio in Egypt, in his interview with the JTA correspondent, was pessimistic about the possibility of a solution of the Arab-Israel conflict in the near future. He acknowledged Israel's eagerness to reach an agreement while, at the same time, the Arabs are delaying until they can grow stronger vis-a-vis Israel.

The Vatican's representative also expressed the view that a decision over the status of the Holy Places in Palestine must also await developments. He expressed deep concern over Soviet infiltration of Egypt, but advised the West to be cautious in criticizing President Nasser. In his opinion, the Apostolic Nuncio continued, Arab aspirations toward unity are legitimate and "I do not see who could do better for Egypt than Nasser."

The ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, who collaborated with Hitler, told the JTA correspondent that the only possibility of reaching a solution of the conflicts in the Middle East is "to give the cause of Palestine complete justice." He added: "Imperialist and Zionist aggressions must be prevented. Palestine is a part of the Arab countries and must live like the others. It is impossible to accept the present situation which the Zionists have created in Palestine. The Jews must go and all the (Arab) refugees must return to their homes."

ISRAEL TO RECEIVE U. S. LOAN TO FINANCE ERECTION OF ATOMIC REACTOR

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Israel will receive a \$350,000 loan from the United States Export-Import Bank to finance the erection of an atomic reactor at the Weizmann Institute, it was revealed here today with the publication in the Official Gazette of authorization to Ambassador Abba Eban to sign for and receive the loan in Washington. The reactor is coming from the United States.

The foreign currency budget of the Israel Government for the coming fiscal year will total some \$620,000,000, an increase of \$33,000,000 over the budget of this year, it was learned here today.

It is anticipated that exports will provide \$267,000,000 in foreign currency income, German reparations will bring in \$58,000,000, personal restitution payments \$65,000,000 and grants of food surpluses, \$58,000,000. The United Jewish Appeal and other fund-raising sources are expected to provide \$55,000,000 in foreign currency, Israel bond sales another \$50,000,000, private transfers \$34,000,000 and private investments \$30,000,000.

WATER SHORTAGE IN ISRAEL IS "GRAVE"; PRIORITY FOR IRRIGATION ESTABLISHED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Kaddish Luz, Israel's Minister of Agriculture, called today for a maximum national effort to conserve water, asserting that the water shortage situation was "grave." He reported that there was virtually no hope for the Negev crops and that the yield from areas more favorably situated with regard to rain would be low. This has been the worst drought in a decade.

The Minister announced that he has named a special committee to work out means of conserving water. In addition, his office is drafting a priority list of crops to be irrigated with whatever water is available. Fodder for cattle, groves and orchards of food-bearing trees will receive their full share of water, while new orchards and garden vegetables and sugar beet acreage will be controlled. Home gardens will receive limited supplies of water.

Meanwhile, after but two days of rain, Israeli skies turned fair and blue yesterday to the joy of city dwellers and to the dismay of the farmers. The two days of showers had little effect in saving crops, except in the North. Rain in Israel was in short supply this year, with key areas receiving only one-third to one-sixth the average rainfall.

ISRAEL DENIES LOSING FIGHTER PLANE IN SKIRMISH WITH EGYPTIAN JETS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11. (ITA) -- An Israel Army spokesman denied this week-end allegations by the Egyptians last week that an Israeli fighter was downed in an encounter between Israeli and Egyptian jets over the Negev. No Israeli plane was hit by any Egyptian bullets, the spokesman said.

The air battle lasted but a few moments last Thursday when an Israeli patrol spotted four Egyptian Migs in formation over Israeli territory 20 miles from Beersheba. All four MIGs fled.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- A program for the launching of a new \$300,000,000 issue of State of Israel Bonds in the next 60 days was adopted today to provide Israel with the economic means of keeping its gates open to more than 100,000 new immigrants in 1959 and sustain its economic development.

This action was taken at the closing session of a three-day National Economic Planning Conference of the Israel Bond Organization at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, which was attended by more than 500 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada. In response to urgent pleas from Israel addressed to the Conference by Finance Minister Levi Eshkol and Ambassador Abba Eban, the delegates voted to sell \$75,000,000 in 1959 to assure a successful beginning of the new bond issue.

The new bonds, which will be known as the Second Development Issue, will be officially launched at a National Inaugural Conference which will be held in Miami during the week-end of Friday, March 6, according to an announcement made by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice president, who presided at the closing session. The first two issues of Israel bonds, the Independence and First Development Bonds, produced a record total of more than \$366,000,000 for the economic development of Israel during the period from May 1, 1951 to December 31, 1958, he said.

Dr. Schwartz emphasized that the Israel bond campaign for 1959 must be carried on with the greatest vigor in the first three months of the year. "We must wage an intensified drive in the first three months of 1959 to provide the foundation for the enlarged income which is so crucial to the success of the entire year and to the realization of the broader program of economic absorption which Israel must embark upon for hundreds of thousands of new immigrants."

Dr. Schwartz outlined the terms of the new bond issue as agreed upon with the Government of Israel. He said that two types of bonds would be offered, consisting of 15-year dollar coupon bonds paying four percent interest annually and ten-year dollar savings bonds which will mature at 150 percent of their face value. Coupon bonds will start at \$500 and savings bonds at \$100.

Israel Must Receive 100,000 Immigrants in 1959, Eshkol Says

Addressing the conference last night, Levi Eshkol, Israel's Minister of Finance, said that Israel must be prepared to receive an additional 100,000 immigrants this year, mostly from Eastern European countries. He explained that Israel would need some \$2,000 to \$2,500 a person to provide for the permanent absorption of these newcomers into her economy.

Mr. Eshkol estimated that immigration will proceed at the rate of more than 8,000 a month during 1959 and possibly at the same rate in 1960. He predicted that, as a result of immigration and natural increase, the population of Israel, now at the 2,000,000 mark, will reach 3,000,000 in the next ten years.

Warning that the overwhelming burden of settling 100,000 immigrants in 1959 may bring on a grave economic crisis, the Israel Finance Minister called for a new mobilization of American support through Israel bonds. He said that, of a total of \$250,000,000 needed for the absorption of 100,000 immigrants, some \$90,000,000 would have to be spent on housing alone.

In another address at yesterday evening's session, Israel Ambassador Abba Eban called upon the Western Powers to avoid giving any impression that they "condone Nasser's claims to hegemony over the Middle East." These claims, Mr. Eban said, are the "central cause of Middle Eastern tension." Ambassador Eban stressed that "the friendship of the major Western Powers towards Israel is not merely a function of their disillusionment with Arab states." In a reference to the "cold war" between East and West, he added:

"It is wrong to believe that any improvement in relations between the Western Powers and some of your adversaries would of necessity cause the Western Powers to abandon their respect for Israel's sovereignty and vital interests. Many powers are now involved in complex problems of judgment in connection with developments in Baghdad and Cairo. In no single case has any friendly country drawn the conclusions that these should arrest or annul the processes by which they contribute to Israel's strength and stability."

The sum of \$46,540,650 was raised in 1958 through the sale of Israel bonds, it was reported at the conference. The amount sold last year brought to a total of \$366,450,000 the financial resources derived from Israel bonds since May, 1951 for Israel's economic development.

Speakers at the conference included Abraham Feinberg, president of the bond organization; Ira Guilden, national campaign chairman; Mrs. Joseph Cherner, chairman of the women's division of the bond organization, and Mrs. Joan Comay, Israeli author and journalist.

ADENAUER ORDERS PROBE INTO PUBLICATION OF ANTI-SEMITIC PAMPHLET

BONN, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Max Brauer, Mayor of Hamburg, conferred with West German Chancellor Dr. Konrad Adenauer this week-end on the Hamburg Supreme Court's refusal to act against the publisher of an anti-Semitic pamphlet. He insisted on stern measures against the author and the publisher of the anti-Jewish tract.

The conference took place against a background of rising protest in the German press and public over additional evidence of anti-Semitic activity. Also against the Hamburg court's insistence that publication of the pamphlet had not violated the Federal law against preaching anti-Semitism and race hatred because it had not called for a campaign against the Jewish people but had spoken of "international Jewry."

The Chancellor has already ordered an investigation by the Federal Ministry of Justice of the incident which began with the distribution last year of a pamphlet by Friedrich Nieland, lumber merchant and author of the broadside, and Adolf Heimberg, the printer. The pamphlet denied that 6,000,000 Jews had been murdered by the Nazis and charged that the world was ruled by "international Jewry."

The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung hit the court decision and said that the pamphlet was a test by "incorrigible anti-Semites" to see "how far they can go." The Hamburg newspaper Bild, which has a circulation of 3,000,000, published a frontpage editorial entitled "Alarm," which insisted that "something must be done" about the revival of anti-Semitism, including if necessary new laws by Parliament.

Other newspapers across Germany also protested the distinction drawn by the Hamburg court between attacking the Jewish people and attacking "international Jewry."

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE FEARS POSSIBILITY OF BIRO-BIDJAN REVIVAL

NEW YORK, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee today reported that it had received information from its Paris office stating that a plan for large-scale settlement of Soviet Jews in Biro-Bidjan, in Siberia, may be presented to the forthcoming congress of the Communist Party which opens in Moscow at the end of this month. The Committee expressed concern over "the future of Soviet Jews."

The congress in Moscow will discuss the development of Soviet Asia within the framework of its projected Seven-Year Plan for 1959-65. In this connection, the Committee said, the plan for a large-scale movement of Jews to Biro-Bidjan will be considered. The Committee visualized that the plan could take three possible courses:

1. A larger Jewish settlement than the present one, but still only a token settlement. This would enable the Soviet rulers to declare the Jewish population of the Soviet Union "wherever they may reside" as members of a "territorial nationality," and on that basis "to deny them their cultural and other rights outside of Biro-Bidjan."
2. Biro-Bidjan would officially be made available to the Jewish population as a Jewish territory, and various means of indirect inducement would be applied to the Jews to settle there.
3. The forced mass resettlement of Jews to Biro-Bidjan. According to the report, "what is involved in the situation is the reappearance in Soviet life of a Jewish pale of settlement, a vast official Soviet ghetto."

Citing Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev's statement last year that Jews were excessively individualistic and unwilling to participate in collective work, the American Jewish Committee pointed out that this was followed by sudden publicity in the Soviet press in praise of Biro-Bidjan, where Jews were said to live a normal life and to enjoy their Jewish identity.

U. S. JEWS AID JEWISH COMMUNITY IN BOMBAY TO BUILD A REFORM TEMPLE

NEW YORK, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- A group of American Reform Temple has lent \$10,000 to Jews in Bombay, India, to enable them to purchase a building to be used as a temple, it was announced yesterday by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, central body of Reform synagogues in the United States.

The loan was presented to Rabbi Hugo Gryn, first ordained rabbi to serve the Jewish Community of Bombay, by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, rabbi of The Temple in Cleveland.

BOSTON JEWISH PAPER NAMES CARDINAL CUSHING AS "MAN OF THE YEAR"

BOSTON, Jan. 11. (JTA) -- Cardinal Cushing was named by the Jewish Advocate of Boston this week as its "Man of the Year." The citation declared: "If the Cardinal's noble thoughts against racial antipathy and creedal strife could be put into the hearts of every man and child, then verily would we arrive at the long overdue recognition that we are all children of One Loving Father to enjoy the pleasantness of brethren living together in peace."