



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

360 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16. N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXVI No. 12 - 41st year Monday, January 19, 1958

JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE MEETS IN U. S. ; ASSIGNS \$10,100,785 FOR AID

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The sum of \$10,100,785 was allocated to Jewish communities, organizations and institutions in 30 countries throughout the world by the board of directors of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, at the close of its annual meeting held here today.

The allocations represented funds available for distribution this year, and raised to more than \$60,000,000 the total sum granted by the Conference since 1956, it was announced by Jacob Blaustein of Baltimore, senior vice-president of the Claims Conference. In presenting the 1959 budget, Mr. Blaustein stated that it contained two major components: \$7,911,811 to go in aid of relief, rehabilitation and resettlement projects and \$1,773,974 for cultural and educational reconstruction.

The Claims Conference, made up of 23 national and world-wide Jewish organizations, obtains the funds it allocates under the special agreement it reached with the German Federal Government in 1952, by which \$107,000,000 is being turned over to the Conference, over a span of 12 years, for the benefit of needy Nazi victims throughout the world.

Mr. Blaustein pointed out that the allocations reached only a fraction of the sums requested from the Conference this year. "More than 400 Jewish organizations have applied for grants exceeding \$30,000,000, all told, three times the sum available for allocation," he stated. He announced that \$7,911,811, almost four-fifths of the entire budget for 1959, was designated for relief and rehabilitation programs expected to provide 150,000 needy Nazi victims with aid.

The funds will be spent, in Europe principally, by Jewish communal and central welfare agencies and by the American Joint Distribution Committee. Funds will also be used to aid in the emigration of Nazi victims from Europe and for their resettlement, especially in Australia and Latin America. Over nine-tenths of the funds will be expended on the European continent and especially in the lands under former Nazi occupation where needs are most urgent. The relief and rehabilitation of needy Nazi victims now in Latin America and Australia also bear important priorities.

\$1,773,974 Granted for Cultural and Educational Reconstruction

Allocations of \$1,773,974 for Jewish cultural and educational reconstruction will go in aid of six major programs, Mr. Blaustein stated. They include education, research and publication, salvage of cultural treasures, upkeep of rabbinical schools, programs for individual scholarships and fellowships, and the documentation and commemoration of the era of Nazi persecution. The programs are addressed to the reconstruction of Jewish institutions and of spiritual and cultural centers ravaged by the Nazis, and for the rehabilitation of Nazi victims who are scholars, writers and teachers.

Over \$700,000, the greatest single sum for cultural reconstruction will go in aid of Jewish education. More than one-half of the sum is earmarked for the construction, repair and equipment of 27 schools in nine countries, the great majority in Europe. "Conference allocations for Jewish education have climbed year by year, and have expanded more than threefold since 1954," Mr. Blaustein said.

In all the categories of Conference grants, Mr. Blaustein pointed out, those for capital investment play a vital role in the rebuilding of Jewish communities that suffered at Nazi hands. The grants cut across programs for relief and rehabilitation, cultural and educational and reconstruction and commemoration and documentation of the Nazi persecution.

For 1959, grants reaching \$1,070,000 will go for the construction, expansion, equipment and repair of homes for the aged, hospitals, children's and youth centers, baby clinics, summer camps, kindergartens, schools, community and youth centers, religious institutions and related undertakings. Those funds will increase to some \$6,000,000 the sums allocated for capital investment undertakings since Conference operations began in 1954.

2, 000, 000 INDEMNIFICATION CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY STILL PENDING

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Nearly two million indemnification claims of victims of Nazi persecution in all parts of the world are still pending against the German Federal Republic, it was announced last night by the board of directors of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

The Claims Conference, by formal resolution, appealed directly to Chancellor Adenauer of the German Federal Republic to speed up the lagging pace of indemnification payments to Nazi victims and their families. At the same time, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the Claims Conference, presented a report on the state of the indemnification program for individual Nazi victims, which was a primary responsibility assigned to the Conference under the agreement it reached with the Bonn Government in 1952.

"Claims pending at German indemnification offices have grown by half a million in the past nine months," Dr. Goldmann stated. "Many will fail to reach adjudication in less than ten years at the present rate, a state of affairs that must be viewed in the light of the fact that a quarter of a century has elapsed since Hitler came to power."

Payments to individual Nazi victims from the German Federal Republic reached \$1,242,000,000, all told, by September 30, 1958. That sum represents, nevertheless, a mere fraction of the losses inflicted by Nazi persecution and the value of the claims submitted. "The great majority of Nazi victims have failed to this very day to receive the compensation payments due them," Dr. Goldmann stated.

Dr. Goldmann announced that he will shortly proceed to Bonn for discussions with Chancellor Adenauer and ranking German officials to discuss specific steps for speeding up the flow of indemnification payments. On the favorable side, Dr. Goldmann expressed satisfaction that deliveries of goods, materials and services, under the terms of the Bonn-Israel reparations pact of 1952, to which the Conference is a party, were continuing to move at a smooth and even pace.

A total of \$391,666,667 in capital goods, materials and services were delivered to Israel from Germany since payments started on June 30, 1953. Of that sum, \$65,476,190 in goods and services were provided in 1958, he reported. In addition, advance orders for capital goods, including ships and heavy equipment scheduled for delivery over the next four years have reached \$83,000,000.

Dr. Goldmann pointed out that the reparations deliveries have left their mark upon the expansion and modernization of industry, agriculture and transportation in Israel. In the development of the Israeli merchant marine, in the expansion of the electric power system, and in supplying oil drilling, mining and related heavy equipment, the reparations deliveries have played a noteworthy role.

The former I. G. Farben Trust has provided a fund of \$7,142,000 for distribution among the surviving Jewish slave laborers at Auschwitz, who were compelled to toil at its nearby synthetic rubber factory, during the war. The fund was set up by the terms of an agreement reached between the Claims Conference and the I. G. Farben Co. About 6,000 one-time Jewish slave laborers at the Farben factory are expected to receive compensation.

Jewish Claims Conference Aids 150, 000 Nazi Victims in 19 Lands

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt, treasurer of the Claims Conference, reported on achievements from allocations granted over the first five years of Conference operations, following a report on the expenditure of \$10,234,283 in Conference allocations for 1958.

For relief and rehabilitation, Conference allocations over the years 1954-58 reached \$37,300,000, Mr. Leavitt stated, and they have made their weight felt throughout the Jewish world. "Our funds are currently aiding over 150,000 needy Nazi victims per year, and the numbers have grown larger, year by year, ever since our operations began," Mr. Leavitt said. The beneficiaries, in the overwhelming majority, are making their homes in continental Europe, above all in the lands that fell victim to Nazi occupation.

Allocations for cultural and educational reconstruction have exceeded \$6,100,000 over the five-year period. Funds are currently going to 167 communities and institutions conducting activities in 19 lands. Over 1,800 Nazi victims are direct annual beneficiaries of the allocations, and thousands more are attending Jewish primary and secondary schools, rabbinical seminaries and other schools of higher learning and teacher training colleges, that received Conference allocations. "The Claims Conference has become the greatest single source of funds throughout the entire Jewish world for world-wide programs of cultural and educational reconstruction," Mr. Leavitt stated.

A third major area of allocation, Mr. Leavitt said, is for legal aid extended via the United Restitution Organization and going to needy Nazi victim claimants under German restitution and indemnification laws. Allocations of \$2,679,000 over the five-year span have aided the URO to carry on operations in 15 lands.

JEWISH CONGRESS ASKS MIKOYAN TO ACT ON HIS ASSURANCES TO SOVIET JEWRY

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress today called on Soviet Deputy Premier Anastas Mikoyan to go beyond his assurances of friendship for Soviet Jewry by supporting the restoration of facilities "essential" to preserving cultural and religious life among Russia's 3,000,000 Jews.

In a resolution, the Congress welcomed what it termed the "friendly sentiments" expressed by Mr. Mikoyan regarding Soviet Jewry but said such assurances are not responsible to the need for "basic facilities necessary for Jewish life in the U. S. S. R." Such facilities are granted to other religious and cultural minorities in Russia but have been denied to Jews since shortly after World War II, the AJC charged. It urged Mr. Mikoyan to declare himself affirmatively on these questions:

1. Is the Soviet government prepared to grant Jewish religious congregations in Russia the same facilities granted to other minority religious groups? Such facilities would include the opportunity: to form a national body of Jewish congregations; to maintain contact with organized Jewish religious groups in other parts of the world; to publish prayerbooks, religious calendars and other religious materials; to train rabbis and other religious functionaries.

2. Is the Soviet government prepared to grant to Jews the same facilities it grants to other ethnic minority groups in Russia? Such facilities would include the opportunity: to establish Jewish cultural institutions, including schools, theatre groups, lecture forums, etc.; to publish newspapers in the Yiddish language; to publish Yiddish and Hebrew literary works.

3. Is the Soviet government prepared to allow those Jews in Russia who have close relatives in Israel, the United States and elsewhere, and who seek to rejoin their families, the right to do so? Such a right is granted by the Soviet-bloc countries of Rumania and Poland.

The action was taken at a quarterly meeting of the AJC national administrative and executive committees. In a special report to the AJC body, Dr. Joachim Prinz, national president, said that while religious Jewry in Russia suffers in common with the adherents of all other religions from the basic anti-religious policy of the Soviet government, Jews are the victims of "special discrimination" by comparison with other grounds.

(Israel Ambassador Abba Eban is among a group of top-ranking diplomats invited by the Soviet Embassy to a reception here tomorrow for Anastas Mikoyan, First Deputy Premier of the Soviet Union. Mr. Mikoyan is scheduled to fly home Tuesday.)

EBAN MEETS WITH DULLES TODAY; TO DISCUSS RECENT CHANGES IN MIDDLE EAST

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Abba Eban, Israel's Ambassador to Washington, will confer tomorrow with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. It is understood that Mr. Eban's parley will concern recent changes in the Middle East. Mr. Dulles and Mr. Eban have not met in over a month.

Appearing today on a television program originating here, Ambassador Eban said he did not believe that a world war would develop out of the Israel-Arab dispute and that there were more dangerous situations in the world today. The greatest tasks facing the United Nations were the issues of control of outer space, control of atomic energy and disarmament.

The Ambassador said that tensions among the Arab states are such that they do not have time to concentrate on Israel. He said the Arabs are so absorbed with whether they will be dominated by President Nasser of the United Arab Republic they show no signs at present of cooperation for new aggression against Israel.

(At a press conference this week-end at the United Nations headquarters, U. N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold announced that Israel Prime Minister David Ben Gurion and President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic have agreed with him to a demarcation of the Syrian-Israel border through new markings. He denied he had said in the Middle East that he expects a full solution of the Arab refugee problem this year, stating he hopes that the work of U. N. relief for the refugees would continue.)

Blaustein Confers with Hammarskjold on Middle East Affairs

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold and Jacob Blaustein, Jewish leader, had a two-hour conference this week-end regarding various United Nations matters including the Middle East.

This was a follow-up of the conference the Secretary General and Mr. Blaustein had prior to the Secretary General's recent trip to the Middle East. Mr. Blaustein also discussed Middle East affairs with William M. Rountree, Assistant Secretary of State for North Africa and the Middle East.

AMERICAN ORT APPROVES \$5, 800, 000 BUDGET FOR WORK IN 20 COUNTRIES

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- A budget of \$5, 800, 000 for ORT programs in 20 countries overseas in 1959 was approved here today at an all-day meeting of the board of directors of the American ORT Federation.

Underlining the importance of ORT programs to the communities in which it functions is the fact that half of the budget will be provided by governments and host communities. Under an agreement with the Joint Distribution Committee, ORT will also receive \$1, 600, 000 from JDC funds.

Dr. William Haber, president of the American ORT, said that the greatest expansion in ORT programs this year will come in its trade schools in Israel and vocational programs for 18, 000 Jews repatriated from the USSR to Poland.

U.S. Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell, a featured speaker at the conference, lashed out at the failure in this country to grant equal access to employment opportunities and education regardless of "race or color or church." He pointed out that "personal rights in America are the most precious thing we have, and because we insist on them before the world, we are judged by the world on how we perform regarding them." He lauded ORT activities abroad because "organizations like this one, going about their business of creating opportunity and building lives, present a truer image of America."

Moses A. Leavitt, JDC executive vice chairman, told the conference that "one of the great lessons of our rescue work in the postwar years" was that refugees and displaced persons require vocational training to prepare them for resettlement and rehabilitation. Reporting on activities in behalf of Polish Jews from the Soviet Union, Mr. Leavitt noted that the ORT workshops "keep them occupied and teach them trades without which they could not hope to make a living today and which contain the seed of hope for how they will remake their lives tomorrow."

JEWISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO SO. AFRICA LAUDED BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Representatives of the South African Government and of various Christian denominations attended this week-end the silver jubilee anniversary of the Federation of Synagogues of the Transvaal and Free State.

Minister of the Interior Tom Naude, one of the featured speakers at the banquet, said that the Jews could justify their claim to having contributed their fair share to the achievement of South Africa's national ideals. The Jews of South Africa, Mr. Naude continued, are "good Jews and good citizens" and it is a "privilege to wish the Federation of Synagogues continued success in its important communal work."

F. C. Odendaal, Administrator of the Transvaal, expressed his deep respect for the Jewish religion as the "main force of Jewish survival and the vital ingredient which had imbued the Jew with ideals of public service." These, he said, had contributed "richly" to the progress of the Transvaal.

Chief Rabbi Louis I. Rabinowitz drew a comparison between South Africa and Israel, noting that in both the government was commanded by one dominant race and religious group. This, he cautioned, laid a responsibility on both countries to resist the temptation of favoring one's own where equal consideration was required of representations made by Jews, Anglicans, Catholics and others. Other speakers included representatives of the Dutch and Anglican churches.

Israel Consul General Gabriel Doron, speaking Afrikaans to the delight of the government guests, expressed Israel's appreciation for South Africa's pro-Zionist and pro-Israel record.

YUGOSLAVIA TO CONTINUE TO SEEK EXTRADITION OF ARTUKOVIC FROM U. S.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The Yugoslav Government made it clear today that it will explore all legal channels to renew its seven-year fight to gain extradition from the United States of Andrija Artukovic, a Croatian Hitler collaborator charged with the murder of thousands of Jews and others during World War II.

U. S. Commissioner Theodore Hocke ruled last week in Los Angeles that the charges brought by Yugoslavia were political in nature. It was held therefore, that Artukovic was not subject to extradition. Commenting on the decision, a spokesman for the Yugoslav Embassy said that Artukovic was a common criminal as well as a political and war criminal and Yugoslavia would muster all its legal resources to bring Artukovic to justice.

Commissioner Hocke held there was "no reasonable cause to believe Artukovic guilty of the crimes charged." The 58-year-old Croat who served as Interior Minister and police head of the pro-Nazi puppet regime, was described as "jubilant" when the decision was announced.

The World Jewish Congress and Yugoslav Jews now residing in Israel took great interest in the Artukovic case. They charged that he was among the most extreme Nazi collaborators and personally active in the persecution and murder of Yugoslav Jews. The Roman Catholic Church supported Artukovic in the long legal fight.