



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXVI No. 13 - 41st year Tuesday, January 20, 1959

U.S. JEWISH LEADERS MEET ON EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM EASTERN EUROPE

NEW YORK, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- A plea that American Jews give "full philanthropic priority" to a United Jewish Appeal \$100,000,000 Special Fund for resettling 100,000 immigrants expected by Israel this year from Eastern Europe was voiced tonight by Levi Eshkol, Finance Minister of Israel.

Mr. Eshkol's plea was made to 200 key American Jewish leaders here, called together in an emergency session to hear the high-ranking official report on Israel's greatest immigration crisis in a decade. "I know," he declared, "it sounds trite to say we are faced by our greatest immigration emergency in ten years, but the plain, cruel, truth is that we are."

The crisis arises "not just from the numbers who are coming," he told the group. "It derives from the fact that Israel has no housing available for immigrants beyond the next month or so and no funds with which to build more." He said Israel expected some 8,000 immigrants monthly following the recent liberalization of emigration procedures by various East European governments. The largest Jewish community in Eastern Europe outside the Soviet Union is that of Rumania, numbering 250,000 Jews. Poland has about 40,000 remaining Jews.

The conference, made up of leaders from communities across the nation about to conduct drives in behalf of the 1959 United Jewish Appeal, also heard from Morris W. Berinstein, UJA general chairman, Avraham Harman, member of the executive of the Jewish Agency, and Charles Jordan, director general of the Joint Distribution Committee.

The UJA general chairman pointed out that the emergency meeting was "unprecedented," in that the leaders had been called back from their communities only a month after the UJA annual conference, December 12-14 in New York. There they voted to seek a \$100 million Special Fund "over and above" the 1959 UJA regular goal of \$105 million to meet the ongoing programs of its beneficiaries.

Hear "Full Story" on Israel's New Immigration Emergency

"We have called you back to give you the full story on Israel's new immigration emergency," Mr. Berinstein said. He recalled that in December, Dr. Dov Joseph, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, had urged delegates to the UJA annual conference to help Israel's people take in a large immigration in 1959.

"Israel's leaders then estimated 50,000 would be coming," Mr. Berinstein said. "In a single month," the UJA general chairman added, "all immigration estimates have had to be doubled. Today most evidence points to the fact that an immigration flood has started that will continue for many months. None of us dare to take Mr. Eshkol's plea lightly. In answer to this greatest immigration crisis in a decade, American Jews must be urged to respond in the same full and understanding measure as they did a decade ago.

"If we fail to reach our goal," Mr. Berinstein told the audience, "we will cause untold hardship to the newcomers and Israel's people." He added, "we who count ourselves the friends of Israel's people will have handed them a severe set-back to all they have accomplished in building a working democracy in ten years." He urged the audience to advance the progress of their pre-campaign efforts, with a view to producing the greatest sums possible for the UJA National Inaugural Conference in Miami, February 7.

Avraham Harman, member of the Jewish Agency executive, who arrived last week from Jerusalem for the meeting, declared that despite the present emergency, one 1959 welfare objective that must be retained to the fullest extent possible was a program for clearing Israel's "ma'abarot"--shanty towns housing 110,000 earlier immigrants.

Mr. Harman revealed that the Agency hopes to direct the greatest number of newcomers to various "development" areas in Israel's less populated regions. These include the Galilee region in Israel's north, and the Negev. He said that the Agency must have \$1,600 to meet the costs of an immigrant's first year in Israel. This includes transportation from Eastern Europe, the immigrant's share of housing costs, and welfare services.

ISRAEL CABINET MEMBERS TO TOUR U.S.; WILL AID EMERGENCY FUND-RAISING

JERUSALEM, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- In view of the commitments of the American Zionist leadership in emergency fund-raising for Israel, a meeting of the Zionist Actions Committee scheduled for the end of February was today postponed until mid-May.

A Jewish Agency plenary session, slated to precede the Actions Committee, may be held in New York instead of Jerusalem, an Agency spokesman said today. It is impossible to postpone this session, he noted, because the Agency budget must be acted upon. Since the American members are busy, he added, it was proposed that several Jerusalem executive members come to New York for a meeting. A final decision on this matter will be taken early in February, after Agency president Dr. Nahum Goldmann arrives here.

The Agency is organizing four groups of Israeli leaders, including four members of the Cabinet and a number of Parliamentary deputies, who will tour the United States, each spending several days in a different United States community aiding in fund-raising efforts. The spokesman also revealed that a meeting of the Keren Hayesod leaders of 18 European countries would be held in Amsterdam February 23 and 24, and a South American regional United Jewish Appeal conference would be held on that continent in March.

ISRAEL MINISTER FOR RELIGIOUS OFFERS COMPROMISE ON IDENTITY ISSUE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- Proposals aimed at bridging sharp differences between Orthodox and secular groups in Israel in the "who is a Jew?" controversy as it related to identity cards for Israeli citizens, were formulated today by Rabbi Jacob Moshe Toledano, the Minister for Religious Affairs and were being given good chances of success.

Rabbi Toledano, it is understood, drew up his compromise proposals after consultation with the Chief Rabbinate. The identity card would not necessarily be the exclusive criterion when the question of the bearer's religion might be raised in the religious courts and the Chief Rabbinate would have the authority to call for additional proof in cases of doubt.

The Toledano proposals provided that children of mixed marriages should be registered on the mother's identity card. Adults who declared in good faith that their parents were Jewish would be registered as Jews.

Hitherto, minors were entered on their father's identity card. According to the Jewish religion, the child is assumed to be of the religion of the mother. Adults were formerly required, in obtaining identity cards, to state only that they were Jewish.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT CANCELS PLANS TO DELIVER TELEGRAMS ON SABBATH

JERUSALEM, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- The Israel Government cancelled today its plans to extend the delivery of telegrams on the Sabbath to all residents of Israel.

The cancellation was made after Minister for Religions Moshe Jacob Toledano appealed to Premier David Ben Gurion, who thereupon intervened with the Minister of Posts and Telegraph. Earlier, the Chief Rabbis of Israel, Isaac Herzog and Isaac Nissim, had protested the move.

The practice which remains in force is to deliver telegrams on the Sabbath only to foreign missions and news agencies. Private individuals may obtain messages only upon inquiries made in person or by telephone.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT TO CONSERVE WATER BY CHARGING HIGHER RATES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- The government plans to institute a new rate schedule for water users in Israel which is intended to conserve water by charging high rates for all but minimum quantities. The committee which recommended this plan to the government stressed that such a plan is most likely to be effective in Tel Aviv, where the per capita consumption of water is twice that in Haifa and Jerusalem.

Minister of Agriculture Kaddish Luz said today that "water supply is now Israel's most serious problem." The drought is the worst in the memory of the oldest living inhabitants of Israel. The weather bureau recorded an average rainfall in Israel this past year of one-third of the normal annual fall. Hardest hit was the Negev, where only 11 percent of the normally small precipitation fell this year.

EBAN AND DULLES CONFER ON MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS AFFECTING ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban met today for nearly an hour with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles for a general review of the situation in the Middle East as it affects Israel and other matters, chiefly U.S. economic aid. He was accompanied to the meeting by Israel Minister Yaacov Herzog.

WORLD CONFERENCE OF 10 MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS MEETS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- A conference of ten major Jewish organizations from five continents concluded this morning several days of "survey and deliberations" on problems of mutual concern.

The conference expressed concern at the failure of the Egyptian Government to compensate the many thousands of Jews, especially the stateless, who have had to leave Egypt in recent years without their possessions and assets. The conference considered the steps necessary to protect the interests of those Jews, and to redress the wrongs of which they are the victims.

A special session was devoted to the consideration of problems relating to Jewish education. A subcommittee was named to give this matter further study and to recruit the council of experts. The subcommittee is to report to the next full session of the conference. The conference also heard and discussed reports on Tunisia, Morocco and Eastern Europe.

Some delegates reported on informational measures taken in their communities to enlighten public opinion generally, and business firms specifically, of the danger inherent in yielding to the economic boycott which the Arab League has declared against all firms dealing with Israel.

This is the fourth meeting of the World Conference of Jewish Organizations in a little more than a year. Organizations represented by delegates attending the New York meeting were: American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Canadian Jewish Congress, Conseil Representatif des Juifs de France (CRIF), Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas (DAIA), Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Jewish Labor Committee, South African Jewish Board of Deputies and the World Jewish Congress.

HAMBURG SENATE SCORES COURT'S SIDING WITH ANTI-SEMITIC PUBLISHER

HAMBURG, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- In a joint resolution signed by a number of parties, the Hamburg city parliament expressed concern over the Hamburg Supreme Courts refusal to permit prosecution of a publisher and author of an anti-Semitic pamphlet on the grounds that it did not attack the Jewish people but "international Jewry" and therefore violated no Federal law.

During a debate on the resolution, which also called on the Hamburg Senate to investigate whether the booklet did in fact violate the law against preaching hatred, a Socialist member suggested that if it proved that the court had not interpreted the law correctly the judges should be hailed before the Federal Supreme Court. He cited the fact that the chairman of the Hamburg court had in 1935 published an article calling for outlawing the Jews on racial grounds.

Meanwhile, the judge who delivered the decision squashing the charges against the two anti-Semites has asked for police protection, declaring that he has received numerous threatening letters. He has also asked for transfer to a civil court, asserting that his judgments in criminal cases might be prejudiced in the future if he sat on similar cases.

SYNAGOGUE IN DUSSELDORF DESECRATED; POLICE SEARCH HOMES OF SUSPECTS

DUSSELDORF, Germany, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- The new synagogue in Dusseldorf and the monument in front of it commemorating the Jewish victims of Nazism were desecrated here today when unknown hoodlums daubed Nazi swastikas over three entrances to the building and on the base of the monument.

The hoodlums, apparently of artistic temperament, used five colors in their vandalism. None have been apprehended, though police searched the homes of a number of suspects.

GERMAN SENTENCED TO THREE MONTHS IN JAIL FOR INCITING AGAINST JEWS

MUNICH, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- Reinfried Freunek, a German male nurse, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment by a Weiden court jury on charges of violating the law against spreading racial hatred. He had declared publicly that "all the Jews should be exterminated" and offered to "volunteer to give poison injections to all surviving Jews."

Charges against the nurse were brought by the state prosecutor and two members of the Jewish community in Weiden. The defendant was accused of making the statements to four patients in a hospital in a discussion of the escape of Dr. Hans Eisele, former concentration camp doctor, to Egypt.

In West Berlin, meanwhile, Heinz Jost, one time divisional commander of the Nazi security police, was fined 15,000 marks (nearly \$4,000) by a denazification tribunal. The Berlin court is weighing possible criminal action against Jost, who was charged with responsibility in the murder of thousands of Jews in Lithuania.

JEWISH CONGRESS PROPOSES STRONGER FEDERAL ROLE IN FIGHTING BIGOTRY

NEW YORK, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- A stronger Federal role in fighting segregation and discrimination was proposed here yesterday by the American Jewish Congress. The organization called on President Eisenhower to resist what it termed a "defeatist" attitude toward civil rights legislation and urged him to support a program "to help make the promise of equality come true for every American."

The action, taken at the close of a two-day meeting of the AJC national executive and administrative committees, called for enactment of legislation that would, among other things, make it a Federal crime to transport explosives across state lines for the purpose of criminally destroying homes as well as institutions. It also urged the extension of the life of the Federal Civil Rights Commission two years beyond its original term, and the blocking of Federal mortgage guarantees or other assistances to any builder or developer who restricts occupancy or ownership on grounds of race, religion or national origin.

PRATT ADVISES ORT TO EXPAND ITS VOCATIONAL TRAINING WORK IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- The large immigration of Jews which is now going on from East European countries into Israel plus the planned expansion of Israel's industry this year will require increased vocational training in the country, Israel's Consul General Simcha Pratt declared here last night addressing the annual conference of the American ORT Federation.

Mr. Pratt lauded the vocational training program conducted by the ORT in Israel. He expressed hope that American Jews will enable the ORT to expand its program in Israel in order to give the country more skilled workers and technical "know how." He emphasized that until now Israel has concentrated on a program of agricultural expansion which greatly contributed to the development of the country, but now the stress will be laid on industrial progress.

Speaking of the increasing immigration of Jews from East European countries, Mr. Pratt said that their absorption will require great efforts on the part of Israel, and that American Jewry would have to mobilize all possible financial assistance to help Israel meet these efforts. He estimated that about 100,000 Jews from Eastern Europe are expected to arrive in Israel during this year.

PALESTINE ECONOMIC CORPORATION DECLARES DIVIDEND FOR LAST YEAR

NEW YORK, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- A four percent cash dividend for the year 1958 was declared by the board of directors of the Palestine Economic Corporation here, oldest American investment company active in the economic development of Israel. The dividend, amounting to one dollar per share, will be paid on February 27, 1959, to stockholders of record as of January 2, 1959.

This is PEC's 45th dividend. Founded in 1926, Palestine Economic Corporation today owns or is affiliated with many of Israel's most prominent enterprises in industry, commerce, banking, real estate and other fields. Its assets total about \$17,000,000. Some 9,000 American stockholders will receive dividend checks aggregating \$425,000. Approximately one-quarter of last year's dividend was devoted by PEC stockholders to the purchase of additional PEC common stock.

"VOGSHOL," NEW JEWISH LITERARY MAGAZINE, APPEARS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- A new Yiddish literary magazine, Vogshol, edited by A. Tabachnick, one of the Yiddish editors of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, made its appearance here today as a quarterly publication devoted to reflecting modern trends in Jewish literature. The magazine contains poetry, literary essays and a short story.

In a statement signed by Mr. Tabachnick and Meir Stiker, publisher, it was emphasized that the new publication aim is to become "the loyal opposition" to the spirit of conformity prevailing in the Jewish literature today. It will maintain the highest possible standards in literature and literary criticism, and intends to appear regularly as an organ of Jewish literature and art.

MOSHE BEN-MEIR, HEBREW AUTHOR, DIES; TAUGHT AT YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, Jan. 19. (JTA) -- Moshe Ben-Meir, a Hebrew poet and author, died of heart failure last night. His age was 61. Mr. Ben-Meir was a member of the Yeshiva University faculty for the past eleven years.

Born in Poland, he came here in 1940. Among his books were "Oshree and Other Poems," "Revival of Judaism Among Marranos in Portugal" and "Puns in Yehuda Halevi's Poetry." A book of his poems, "Tzili Vatzel" (Sound and Shadow), was published last week.