



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

360 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXVI No. 34 - 41st year Wednesday, February 18, 1959

TWENTY THOUSAND RUMANIAN JEWS RECEIVE EXIT PERMITS IN TWO WEEKS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Twenty thousand Jews have received exit permits in Rumania during the last two weeks. Those permits are good only for travel to Israel--and not for any other country in the world.

These facts were learned authoritatively here today. It was also established firmly that the 20,000 in the last two weeks are but a fraction of the vast number of Jews now registered for emigration from Rumania under new regulations put into effect by the Bucharest Government. Issuance of the new regulations dispelled rumors that Rumania intended to curb the outpouring of the Jews bound for Israel.

The new regulations were seen here as actually an improvement, because they provide that the exit visa is valid for three months, as against four weeks under previous rules. This gives the emigrant more time to dispose of his property.

Under the new rules, departing Jews receive no emigration passports, but only a special card valid for Israel carrying a transit visa and an Israel entrance visa. These documents are obtained not by the emigrant, directly but by the Rumanian authorities.

The emigrant thus has no direct contact either with the Israel Consulate in Rumania or with the consulate of any countries through which he would pass in transit. This special card is not recognized by any government, other than Israel, as a valid identity document. None of the Rumanian Jews, therefore, could go to any country except Israel.

Jewish Agency authorities, discussing the sources of the new immigration, stress that not a single Jewish immigrant has come from Russia during the last few months. About 70 percent of all immigrants during the past two months are from East Europe, primarily Rumania.

There is still no definite knowledge among Israel officials as to how many Jews will arrive this year from Rumania, but a great number is anticipated.

Reports that Rumanian immigration was approved by the Kremlin as a form of pressure on President Nasser of the United Arab Republic are considered by authoritative sources here as having no foundation. It was pointed out that Rumania started to allow mass emigration in August, when relations between Nasser and the Soviet leaders were still good. It was also noted that the decision to permit this emigration must have been taken in June, when Nasser was still openly pro-Soviet.

Jewish Agency officials are more concerned with the financial problems created by the immigration than with speculations as to why the Rumanian Government decided to permit it. Transportation and maintenance in transit costs the Agency about \$200 per emigrant, aside from the cost of housing and settling the newcomers in Israel. Israel Jews consequently are looking toward American Jewry in anticipation that every American Jew will fully understand the emergency, and contribute his maximum.

NEWCOMERS ADJUST RAPIDLY AS ISRAEL BUILDS HOMES, INDUSTRIES

KYRIAT GAT, Israel, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The problems faced by Israel in absorbing the mounting influx of Rumanian and other East European immigrants were illustrated concretely in this settlement today.

More than 400 Rumanian Jewish families have been settled in newly-built houses prepared for them in advance at Kyriat Gat. The settlement is in central Israel, about half-way between Behtlehem and the coast in the Lachish area.

A group of American newspaper and radio editors and correspondents was brought to Kiryat Gat today because this settlement is typical of about 25 others, to which most of the newcomers from Rumania and other East European countries have been taken in the last ten weeks.

Immigrants come here directly from Lydda airport or from the port of Haifa, and are put up in one-story and two-story homes, modestly furnished. Each home is equipped with kitchen utensils and bedding--and contains an eight-day supply of food.

The arrangements are designed to give the immigrant family head at least one week's freedom from the worries of looking for a job and to adjust himself and his family to the new life in Israel.

In addition to the 400 Rumanian families here, there are also 270 families from Poland and Russia, and about 30 families from Hungary.

The 1,300 Rumanian Jews represent three groups. One is made up of those coming from old Rumania, including Bucharest, most of them being in the managerial and professional category. The second group is composed of Jews from Transylvania and Bukovina. They are mostly artisans and skilled workers, including electricians, metal workers and leather workers. The third group is made up of Jews from Marmoreash, Sighet and Satmar. They have large families, are devoutly religious, and eager for physical labor and farm work.

Though only about half of the immigrants have as yet found employment, they are happy to be in Israel. They are reluctant to talk about life in Rumania or their reasons for leaving.

In dealing with the employment problem, the Israel Government is expanding industry and helping to establish new industries in the area, based on regional raw materials. In the Kyriat Gat region--where cotton and sugar beets are grown--textile and sugar factories are being set up, simultaneously with the construction of new homes. Workers from the ranks of the newcomers are employed on the new construction.

Kyriat Gat already has a population of 7,200 families, which includes a group of veteran Israelis who agreed to settle here to bolster the morale of the newcomers. The veteran settlers also believe that Kyriat Gat will develop into a major industrial and commercial center of the Lachish area.

More than 350 empty houses are ready here for more expected newcomers. Plans are being developed for another 2,000 housing units for those expected to come later in the swelling immigration.

Some skilled newcomers, impatient to find work on their own initiative, have left Kyriat Gat to seek work elsewhere in Israel. No effort is being made to dissuade them. About 60 Rumanian families have moved from Kyriat Gat during the last two months after the family heads had found employment in other towns.

Meanwhile more new families continue to arrive. The SS Aeolia, a Greek ship chartered by the Jewish Agency, was due in Haifa soon with 400 immigrants, more than half of them Rumanian Jews who reached Naples via Vienna.

ISRAEL WILL BROOK NO ARAB MEDDLING IN IMMIGRATION POLICY

LONDON, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Israel will tolerate no interference by the Arab Governments into the Jewish State's immigration policy, according to a statement made to the Times of London by Walter Eytan, director-general of the Israel Foreign Ministry.

The Times quotes Mr. Eytan today as saying that it was "sheer nonsense" to describe immigration into Israel as "aggressive." Any Arab attempt to meddle with free immigration into Israel, Mr. Eytan is reported as saying, must be judged against the "familiar" background of Arab hostility to Israel, and judged accordingly.

ISRAEL POPULATION SEEN RISING TO FOUR MILLION BY 1970

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The population of Israel will be over 4,000,000 by 1970, if its birth rate and immigration are maintained, according to estimates of a world population research project reported today by George Washington University here. Prof. Harold I. Geisert, head of the University's sociology department, directed the study.

The survey showed that heavy immigration into Israel has produced a rapid increase in population, an annual rate of increase of over 6.5 percent which is "the highest in the world." The study determined that "even without immigration Israel would be growing rapidly, with a reported birth rate of 32 per thousand."

A prediction was made that "if this combination of immigration and high natural increase is maintained, the population will double in eleven years."

It was found that, in density of population, Israel's 217 people per square mile is only exceeded by Lebanon, which has a density of 355 per square mile. At the other extreme is Saudi Arabia which the report estimated, has a population of only 11 persons per square mile.

TWO EGYPTIANS KILLED AS ISRAELIS HALT NEW INFILTRATION

TEL-AVIV, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Two Egyptian infiltrators were killed today in an encounter with an Israel patrol well inside Israel territory, according to an Israel Army spokesman.

The spokesman said that the clash occurred some three and a half kilometers inside Israel, in the Halutzah sand-dune area. The infiltrators were killed in an exchange of gunfire.

ALLON SEES NEHRU, REPORTS 'VERY FRIENDLY' ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL

NEW DELHI, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- One of the heroes of Israel's War of Liberation, Gen. Yigal Allon, has held a 90-minute conference here with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, and found the Indian leader "has full understanding of the problem" of the Middle East.

Gen. Allon said after the conference that "the talk was very, very useful." He added that Prime Minister Nehru "desires Israel's prosperity."

In addition to seeing the Prime Minister, Gen. Allon conferred also with India's Vice President, with the Defense Minister, and the Ministers of Agriculture, Transport, Community, and Development. He also exchanged views with the Chief of Staff of India's Army, and with the country's key political leaders.

"I found the Indian attitude to Israel very friendly," Gen. Allon said. "The Indian intellectuals desire more information about Israel."

One of the subjects discussed between Gen. Allon and the Prime Minister was Israel's cooperative movement. Mr. Nehru, without alluding to Gen. Allon's visit, referred to Israel's cooperative movement in approving fashion, when he addressed a meeting of the National Building Council here today. Mr. Nehru recommended that India might eliminate the middle man in construction work, substituting a system of workers' cooperatives like those in Israel.

One of India's more sensational newspapers, "Blitz," published in Bombay, speculated today that Gen. Allon's visit to this country was planned "to pave the way for a visit to India by Israel's Foreign Minister, Mrs. Golda Meir."

AFRO-ASIAN COOPERATION SEMINAR IN ISRAEL ADVANCES PEACE, SAYS BEN GURION

TEL AVIV, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Representatives of 17 Afro-Asian countries, colorfully arrayed in national costume, attended an impressive ceremony here last night, when Prime Minister David Ben Gurion awarded to the men and women certificates of achievement, as the culmination of a "seminar on cooperation" conducted in Israel in the last two months.

The seminar, said Mr. Ben Gurion, has been justified by the cooperative spirit developed between the visitors and Israel. He expressed the hope that the returning experts would bring back to their homes "the mission of cooperation and peace among governments."

Replying for the guests, Dr. J. Deko, chief of the Ministry of Agriculture, assured Mr. Ben Gurion: "We all belong to tomorrow's nations, and therefore we regard Israel as the show-window among developing countries."

After the ceremony, Dr. Inprakash Gupta, leader of India's "Bhoodean" Movement and a prominent Socialist in India, informed Mr. Ben Gurion that he had purchased a hundred-pound Israeli Immigration Bond as his personal contribution to the government's special 20,000,000-pound loan for immigrant absorption.

Dr. Gupta headed the Indian delegation here that attended the Afro-Asian cooperation Seminar. The "Bhoodean" Movement which he heads in India is devoted to persuading large land owners in India to distribute parts of their estates to landless peasants, in line with the teachings of the late Mahatma Gandhi.

ELATH, 'DOORWAY TO AFRO-ASIA,' TRIPLES SHIPPING TONNAGE IN ONE YEAR

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Israel's "doorway to Afro-Asia," the Gulf of Akaba port of Elath, has increased its shipping threefold in the last year, according to Israel's topmost shipping circles. Zim-Israel Lines, stressing the threefold rise in the last 12 months, announced today that the monthly cargo tonnage at Elath has gone up from 3,000 tons per month to 10,000.

CAMBODIA, ISRAEL TO OPEN LEGATIONS IN EACH OTHER'S CAPITALS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Cambodia and Israel will soon open legations in each other's capitals, the Foreign Ministry here announced today. Israel has been steadily making progress in the last three years in tightening its diplomatic relationships with members of the Afro-Asian bloc.

HISTADRUT ADMITS NON-JEWS TO FULL MEMBERSHIP IN ALL TRADE UNIONS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The ruling Council of Histadrut has voted that all non-Jews who are employed in Israel are, hereafter, eligible for full membership in the Israeli trade unions. The Council decided, however, that the old official name of Histadrut should not be changed. The official title is "Organization of Hebrew Laborers in Israel."

ISRAEL'S LABOR FEDERATION GREETES U.S. HISTADRUT CAMPAIGN

TEL AVIV, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- A special greeting to the 35th annual Histadrut campaign in the United States, combined with an appeal for reinvigorated help "by all Histadrut friends in the world," was adopted here today by the Council of Histadrut, Israel's Federation of Labor.

The Council declared that "increased efforts are called for in this hour to advance the absorption of the new immigration arriving this year from Eastern Europe."

AUSTRIAN JEWISH CLAIMS PRESSED BEFORE VICE-CHANCELLOR HERE

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- A delegation representing the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria conferred here today with the Austrian Vice-Chancellor Dr. Bruno Pittermann, urging that his government broaden the scope of existing domestic legislation to provide compensation for Nazi victims.

The delegation placed great weight, in the course of the conference, on the fact that "thousands of Jews who were victims of Nazi persecution in Austria continue to await some measure of compensation for losses and injuries inflicted upon them." Many of the victims, the Jewish leaders underscored, have reached an advanced age and now live in dire need.

The four-man delegation also called for the payment of compensation to the Jewish communities of Austria for synagogues and related communal institutions destroyed during the Nazi era, and for the extension of aid to those communities along the same lines as the government pursued with other religious bodies.

The members of the delegation were Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman; Adolph Held, president of the Jewish Labor Committee; Dr. Gustav Jellinek, president of the American Federation of Jews from Austria; and Saul Kagan, secretary of the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria.

Partial Compensation Figure Accepted by Austrian Government

VIENNA, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Victims of persecution during the Nazi regime in Austria will receive compensation under an agreement negotiated between the Government of Austria and the United States, Britain and France, Chancellor Julius Raab declared today. The agreement commits Austria to set up a fund of \$6,000,000 to meet such claims.

The figure was a compromise between demands of Jewish world organizations, which had asked \$7,000,000, and the Austrian offer of \$5,000,000. Mr. Raab told the Cabinet Ministers that Austria would also provide the administrative costs for this program, which was negotiated under the state treaty, between this country and the former occupying powers.

The funds, which will be paid out between July 1959, and December 1961, will benefit victims of religious, racial and political persecution. Compensation will be paid for confiscated bank accounts, securities, cash and mortgages as well as for Nazi-imposed taxes on emigrants and Jewish property taxes.

Observers here pointed out that the settlement announced by Chancellor Raab does not cover in any way the demands for amendment of internal indemnification legislation, or for proper compensation to the Jewish communities of Austria, made by the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria in a conference in New York today with Vice-Chancellor Bruno Pitterman.

JEWISH CONGRESS GROUP PRESSES CIVIL RIGHTS BILLS IN ALBANY TODAY

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- A delegation of 200 members of the American Jewish Congress in the New York City area will visit Albany tomorrow to present a program of legislation on civil rights and civil liberties to Gov. Nelson Rockefeller and other state officials. Stanley Lowe, former Deputy Mayor of New York, who is chairman of the executive board of the AJC's New York Metropolitan Council, will lead the group.

Bills to be urged on the Governor and other state officials will include banning of bias in private housing; a Fair Sabbath bill; a ban on all wire-tapping; measures to strengthen the State Commission Against Discrimination, and removal of employment restrictions on aliens.

1,500 WOMEN CONTRIBUTE ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO NEW U. J. A. CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- More than \$1,000,000 was contributed to the New York share of the United Jewish Appeal's 1959 goals by 1,500 women attending five luncheons yesterday to launch the 1959 campaign of the UJA Women's Division.

\$240,000 IN ISRAEL BONDS BOUGHT BY DINERS HONORING ABBA EBAN

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Two hundred Bronx Jewish leaders invested \$240,000 in Israel bonds last night at a dinner in honor of Abba Eban, Israel's Ambassador to the United States. The proceeds will be used to build 80 housing units for newcomers to Israel. Twenty synagogues in the Bronx participated in the salute to Mr. Eban.

REFORM LEADER AMONG FOREMOST IN POLL FOR 'CHURCHMAN OF YEAR'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, emerged today as one of three American clergymen nominated for honoring as "Clergy Churchman of the Year." The two others leading the poll, conducted by "Religious Heritage of America," are an Episcopal leader and a prominent Quaker.