



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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Vol. XXVI No. 74 - 41st year

Thursday, April 16, 1959

ISRAEL MINISTER CONFERS WITH STATE DEPT. ON DIRECT U.S. GRANT AID

WASHINGTON, April 15. (JTA) -- Yaacov Herzog, Minister of the Israel Embassy, today conferred with William Rountree, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, on the special assistance grant issue.

Israel sources later said that State Department officials insisted there was no political motive to the termination of grant aid to Israel, and that the decision was based on economic considerations. These sources said the State Department officials held that economic considerations for ending the grant aid were based on Israel's gross national product per capita, and the restrictive nature of the special assistance program.

While they gained an impression that the State Department might compensate for special assistance through other programs, Israel officials insisted that the special assistance grant program in question is vital to Israel's economy.

The State Department agreed to study Israel's economic arguments in this respect. The first economic discussions have already been held, based on a memorandum relating to Israel's needs in the coming year, submitted last week by Ambassador Abba Eban. It is understood that the content of these economic discussions was reviewed in the talk between Mr. Herzog and Mr. Rountree today. These discussions are continuing on the economic level.

Congressional sources revealed today that an instruction to the State Department to reinstate Israel into the special assistance grant program may be written into the final report of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the Mutual Security Bill. Important bi-partisan elements in the committee consider this as a means of impressing upon the executive department that the committee considers Israel entitled to participation in the economic grant aid program and to her fair share of benefits.

The move to write such an instruction embodying the conviction of the committee into the final report on the pending legislation is under active discussion and gaining momentum, it was made known.

ARAB LEAGUE SUGGESTS JOINT ARAB-ISRAEL TALKS ON REFUGEE PROBLEM

JERUSALEM, April 15. (JTA) -- For the first time in its existence, the Arab League is circulating among its members a memorandum proposing that Arabs and Israelis sit down together, at a conference under United Nations chairmanship, to discuss the Arab refugee problem.

Today's Arab newspapers, received here, report this development freely. According to these reports, the League is considering the possibility that the United States delegation at the United Nations will propose joint Israeli-Arab talks on the refugee issue at the next session of the UN General Assembly. The talks will be proposed for drafting a plan to care for refugees after the expiration in July, 1960, of the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

Not only does the League memorandum propose that Arabs and Israelis confer--a step heretofore considered "treason" by die-hard Arabs hostile to Israel. The memorandum also mentions the possibility that in the Arab-Israeli talks, consideration be given to possible resettlement of Arab refugees in lands other than Israel. Until now, Arab spokesmen have insisted only on complete "repatriation" of all refugees, which would mean flooding Israel with hundreds of thousands of hostile Arab refugees. Now repatriation, compensation by Israel to refugees, and resettlement, are being considered together.

One other innovation in the memorandum is the fact that it admits the possibility that not only would Israel compensate Arab refugees, but Arab states would compensate Jewish refugees who left Arab lands for settlement in Israel.

All of these possibilities for settlement of the refugee problem were included last year in an overall plan proposed in New York by the American Institute for Middle Eastern Affairs. The League memorandum is based primarily on that plan as a possible solution to the refugee problem.

Meanwhile, it became known here that the Arab League is preparing a "black register" for tightening the anti-Israeli boycott. The register will contain the names, and in many

instances, photographs of foreigners cooperating with "Israel and the Jews," and those who are "charged with aiding Israel." The register will be distributed among all consulates of all Arab states and to all Arab border check points.

BEN GURION ASSURES THAT FALSE MILITARY ALARM CALLS WILL NOT RECUR

JERUSALEM, April 15. (JTA) -- In a special broadcast to the nation today, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion assured the people of Israel that a mistake like the "false alarm" army reserve call-up, broadcast by the Israel radio April 1, will never occur again.

Emphasizing that the incident had not caused either political or economic damage to Israel, Mr. Ben Gurion nevertheless conceded that the broadcast might have "undermined the deep and justified faith and confidence in the Israel Army, its men and officers." He expressed his confidence that the officers responsible--Brig. Meir Zorea and Brig. Jehosophat Harkavy--will utilize the lessons of the incident for improvement of further coordination between the various branches of the Army.

At the same time, Mr. Ben Gurion praised both officers for "their invaluable services to the Army." He pointed out, however, that they should have carried out to the letter the orders given them by the Army's chief of staff, Brig. Chaim Laskov.

It is known now that the two officers had been instructed to check with Gen. Laskov on the final date for the reservists' call-up, and on the manner of issuing that call. Instead, they issued the call without final approval from Gen. Laskov.

ARAB INFILTRATORS KILL ISRAELI; U. N. OBSERVERS FIND TRACKS TO JORDAN

TEL AVIV, April 15. (JTA) -- An Israeli was killed early this morning by Arab infiltrators, apparently from Jordan, while he was on duty as a night watchman in the settlement of Ramat Rachel, on the outskirts of Jerusalem. He was making his rounds accompanied by another watchman. When they switched on an electric light in a cowshed, one shot was fired, killing one of the men instantly.

United Nations observers, to whom Israel complained at once, found tracks leading to the nearby Jordanian border. The UN observers also found some empty Sten gun cartridges near the spot where the Israeli was killed.

ISRAEL AMBASSADOR LAUDS DULLES; REGRETS HIS RETIREMENT AS SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, April 15. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban today expressed great praise for retiring Secretary of State John Foster Dulles for his "intellectual gifts and sensitive response to moral issues." Mr. Eban expressed the hope that Mr. Dulles will recover from his illness and again bring "his remarkable experience into the service of international peace." Mr. Eban's statement follows:

"I have heard with deep regret of Secretary Dulles' resignation and of the circumstances attending it. Having had a continuous association with Mr. Dulles since 1948, I have learned to admire and respect his intellectual gifts and his sensitive response to moral issues.

"Those who heard it, will not easily forget the eloquent tribute to Israel which he uttered in the Israel Embassy on our tenth anniversary day. In our most recent exchanges, early in February, the sympathy between our countries again found eloquent expression from him. I wish him speedy recovery, so that the gift of his remarkable experience may again be brought into the service of international peace."

PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE ELECTS KLUTZNICK AS CHAIRMAN; SUCCEEDS GOLDMANN

WASHINGTON, April 15. (JTA) -- The Presidents' Conference, a consultative forum of 17 national Jewish organizations, has elected Philip M. Klutznick, president of B'nai B'rith, its chairman. This was described as a first step toward "regularizing" the structure of the group.

Mr. Klutznick was the unanimous choice of 16 other presidents in accordance with the conference rule of unanimous consent in all of its joint actions. He succeeds Dr. Nahum Goldmann who has served as head of the informal Presidents' group since its founding in 1954.

MATZOTH FOR JEWS IN IRON CURTAIN COUNTRIES SHIPPED FROM ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, April 15. (JTA) -- Under the direction of Israel's Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog, large shipments of matzoth for the coming Passover celebrations have been sent to the many Jewish communities abroad, particularly those in the "Iron Curtain" countries of Eastern Europe, it was reported here today.

In addition, Rabbi Herzog sent personal packages containing holiday greetings, to Moscow's Chief Rabbi Levine as well as rabbis in other Soviet and East European communities.

GOVERNORS ABSTAIN FROM AFRICAN DAY CELEBRATION WHICH SNUBBED ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., April 15. (JTA) -- Three Governors and the Mayor of New York absented themselves today from the diplomatic reception celebrating African Freedom Day, from which Israel, alone among the members of the United Nations, had been excluded at the insistence of the Arab bloc.

The prominent absentees were New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, Connecticut Governor Abraham Ribicoff, Michigan Governor G. Mennen Williams, and New York Mayor Robert F. Wagner. The diplomatic reception without Israel and minus these four prominent Americans was held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Israel, however, was invited to, and was represented at the second important event celebrating Africa Freedom Day, observed at Carnegie Hall tonight. The evening event, conducted by the American Committee on Africa, had invited all Asian and African member states as guests of honor.

A number of United Nations delegates from non-Arab African states today showed embarrassment over Israel's exclusion from the diplomatic list for the afternoon reception. The committee of nine delegations in charge of the afternoon event consisted of representatives from the United Arab Republic, Sudan, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Ghana, Ethiopia, Guinea and Liberia. Israel has excellent relations with the four non-Arab states in this group.

In answer to a question about the afternoon event, a spokesman for the Israel delegation stated here today:

"Israel has not been invited for the simple reason that five of the nine countries concerned are members of the Arab League. The Arab League has always pursued an intransigent policy of boycotting Israel. The exclusion of Israel comes from the undue pressure which these five states have brought to bear on the others.

"It is regrettable that the others should have found themselves, however unwillingly, constrained to yield to these pressures, resulting in an act of discrimination which violates the accepted traditions of courtesy between nations."

NEW YORK U. J. A. RAISES \$12, 000, 000 TOWARDS 1959 DRIVE; HONORS EBAN

NEW YORK, April 15. (JTA) -- More than \$12, 000, 000 have been raised thus far by the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York towards its 1959 campaign, it was announced here last night at a UJA dinner attended by 600 leading members of New York's Jewish community. The dinner was tendered as a farewell affair to Ambassador Abba Eban who is returning to Israel next month to enter the field of political activities there.

Addressing the audience, Mr. Eban said that the attempt by President Nasser of Egypt to establish "centralized domination" of the Middle East is doomed to failure. "I do not doubt," Mr. Eban stated, "that the Nasserist concept of a centralized domination in the Arab world--and beyond--will incur mounting resistance and that its failure is foredoomed. As this struggle goes on, Israel's chief contribution to stability in the Middle East lies in the consolidation of herself. The Arab States will never make peace with a weak and fragile Israel."

"Here," Israel's Ambassador continued, "the most important of our tasks lies in economic progress. By sustained effort the people of Israel, aided by friendly governments and communities throughout the world, can swiftly accomplish this task.

"One of the most memorable acts of friendship which we have encountered in the past eight years is the massive infusion of aid which the United States Government has injected into the veins and arteries of our economy, society and culture. I am hopeful that we shall reach valuable agreements for the 1960 programs. It is clear to us that the development of Israel's economy is an objective to which the United States has already made a unique contribution and which it still desires to pursue," Mr. Eban stated.

Referring to the tremendous task of absorbing the mass immigration which has been pouring into his country, Mr. Eban said: "We cannot exaggerate the importance of maintaining and intensifying the efforts of the United Jewish Appeal, whose revenues are the most immediately applicable to the great human issues of our immigrant population."

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, one of the principal speakers at the testimonial dinner to Ambassador Eban, drew upon her observations during recent visits to Israel and Iran in describing to the guests the humanitarian needs to be met by United Jewish Appeal agencies.

Charles Frost, a general chairman of the current New York UJA campaign, and Samuel D. Leidesdorf, treasurer, emphasized Mr. Eban's contribution to the friendly relations now existing between Israel and the United States. Acting on behalf of Mr. Eban's many friends and well-wishers in New York, Samuel Hausman, chairman of the board of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, presented him with a moulded leather desk set.

CANADA HOLDS HEARINGS ON HUMANE SLAUGHTERING; JEWISH LEADERS TESTIFY

OTTAWA, April 15. (JTA) -- After hearing testimony and receiving briefs from representatives of the Canadian Jewish Congress, the House of Commons Agriculture Committee, holding hearings here on a new humane slaughter code, has indicated that it favors the Jewish ritual slaughtering practices as humane. The CJC was represented at the hearing by Saul Hayes, Rabbi S. M. Zambrowski, Sydney Harris, Dr. Samuel Levine, and R. Chayfitz.

Declaring that the Canadian Jewish Congress supports those who insist that slaughter should be performed as painlessly as possible, the Congress' brief informed the Agricultural Committee: "Our religious laws require that food animals must not be injured or hurt in any way before they are slaughtered, and that they must be conscious at the moment of slaughter." The brief pointed out that Jews would be unable to conform to their religious precepts if animal slaughter regulations required a beast to be stunned before slaughter.

The Congress representatives told the committee, in answer to an inquiry, that they would not object to certain new methods, especially one proposal calling for elimination of the hoisting of animals. However, the Congress spokesmen pointed out, smaller communities might be penalized by some new methods, since they could not afford the cost of new installations. The hearings will continue Friday.

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS OBJECT TO HUMANE SLAUGHTERING BILL IN NEW JERSEY

TRENTON, N. J., April 15. (JTA) -- A humane slaughtering bill, which provoked objections on the part of 14 Jewish organizations in New Jersey, was unanimously approved by the House Agricultural Committee of the State Assembly and sent to the Assembly for action. It is expected that the Assembly will take up the bill for discussion at the end of the month.

The Jewish organizations which objected to the bill include the Jewish Community Relations, and the Jewish Federations of Camden County. The objections by all 14 Jewish groups were registered on the basis that the language and provisions of the bill may ultimately affect "Shechitah," kosher ritual slaughtering.

The bill was introduced by Assemblyman Francis J. Werner, of Camden, and was submitted to the agricultural committee for study. In a conference with the committee, representatives of all the Jewish organizations said that reporting the bill out favorably would be contrary to the best interests of the Jewish community and residents of New Jersey.

They pointed out that since a Federal Commission now is studying the complex problem of humane slaughter aid, for the states to pass bills attempting to define humane slaughter, while a Federal Commission is just making a study, would only confuse the situation and result in a series of possibly contradictory and confusing bills.

Since the bill in New Jersey, known as A-133, directs the State Commissioner of Health to determine acceptable methods of preparation and handling of animals and the process of slaughter, there has been considerable fear expressed by Jewish groups that these discretionary powers may prove as ultimate threats to Shechitah.

The Rabbinical Council of New Jersey at a meeting here, decided to fight passage of the bill. Rabbi Zev Segal, council president, reported on the Agricultural Committee hearing at which he opposed the measure. The council joined with other groups in an emergency meeting in Trenton, following which meetings were held with legislators from the respective counties to familiarize them with the reasons for opposing enactment of a state law.

AMERICAN HISTORIAN PREDICTS LEADERSHIP ROLE FOR ISRAEL IN ASIA, AFRICA

NEW YORK, April 15. (JTA) -- Leaders in Jewish cultural life in America attended yesterday a special convocation held at the Theodor Herzl Institute, marking the publication of the book, "The Zionist Idea," edited by Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg. This anthology, spanning the development of Zionist thought for more than a century and preceded by an introductory analysis of Zionist theory, is published jointly by the Herzl Press and Doubleday.

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the Theodor Herzl Foundation, presided over the convocation, highlighted by the participation of the prominent American historian, Professor Henry Steele Commager, and Israel Ambassador Abba Eban. Commenting on both the revolutionary trends and evolutionary forces of Zionism, as traced in the book, Prof. Commager drew a number of striking parallels in the rise of the American Republic and the State of Israel, and declared: "Israel is destined to become the leader and the guide for the whole of Asia and Africa in the ways of a new, benevolent nationalism. Zionism which was originally conceived as a solution of the Jewish problem, will become a significant factor in world history."

Hailing the appearance of the new volume, Ambassador Eban referred to Israel as "a nation born of the Zionist idea," and stressed the indispensable continuity that everlastingly must link the destinies of the State of Israel with the thoughts and efforts of the Founding Fathers of Zionism.