



Jewish Telegraphic Agency DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 15, N. Y.

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Vol. XXVI No. 118 - 41st year - Monday, June 22, 1959

\$38,150,000 RAISED BY U. J. A. IN CASH AT NATIONAL MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, June 21. (JTA) -- The 1959 United Jewish Appeal today reached a mid-year standing of \$38,150,000 in cash against pledges, as several millions of dollars in cash funds were brought forward here by representatives of local campaigns across the country.

This was announced by Melvin Dubinsky, UJA National Cash Chairman, at the conclusion of the UJA's two-day mid-year national conference, in which more than 600 Jewish community leaders from all parts of the country participated. Mr. Dubinsky headed a sixty-day, nationwide effort by local campaign affiliates to convert a maximum amount of 1959 pledges into cash by conference time. The effort will continue during the rest of the year.

The two-day conference, during which progress of the campaign was assessed by the delegates and future plans outlined, inaugurated the second half of the U. J. A. 's nationwide drive, which is under the general chairmanship of Morris W. Berinstein. Delegates to the conference adopted a resolution calling upon the local community affiliates of the United Jewish Appeal to provide a total of \$75,000,000 in cash funds against pledges to this year's effort by the end of 1959. In their resolution the delegates declared:

"It is most gratifying that the communities of the country have come forward with \$38,150,000 at this mid-year point in the 1959 campaign. While this sum represents one of the greatest amounts of cash raised and delivered in the first six months of any UJA campaign of recent years, it is only half of what is required in view of the vast needs which continue to exist for hundreds of thousands of immigrants who have come to Israel in recent years, tens of thousands of Jews in need in twenty-four countries of Europe and Moslem lands, and thousands of refugees to the United States."

The assembled UJA leaders heard Dr. Buell G. Gallagher, president of the College of the City of New York, speak on World Refugee Year, which begins July 1, and upon the conclusion of his talk, voted to adopt a resolution declaring their unanimous support of the "aims and objectives" of the year-long international effort to solve outstanding refugee problems.

Dr. Gallagher said that the world could take an example "from the magnificent rescue work of Jewish bodies, which have provided many avenues of rescue and thus saved the lives of countless numbers more of refugees, Jew and non-Jew alike." He lauded the achievements of the United Jewish Appeal, declaring that in its 21 years of existence it had made it possible for "1,300,000 human beings to find new life and freedom in Israel, the United States and other lands of freedom." He noted that approximately 1,000,000 of these had been resettled in Israel -- while 300,000 were settled in this country and other free communities.

600,000 Persons Aided by U. J. A. Funds In First Half of 1959

U. S. Supreme Court Associate Justice William O. Douglas told the assembled 600 Jewish community leaders that both the United States and the countries of Asia "need" the democracy of Israel as "a great bastion of freedom and justice along the Mediterranean." He urged both the United States Government and the governments of Asia to "sustain Israel."

At the same time the conference heard Yaacov Herzog, Israel's Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States, declare that after eleven years of statehood, Israel is able to face up to its problems with a confidence born of experience and proven capacity. "Israel has moved from a sense of survival to one of durability, even though her problems are by no means solved," he said, adding that "there is more contemplation of the realities of statehood, more long-term planning, more study given to the character of nationhood and to Israel's place on the Middle Eastern scene."

Morris W. Berinstein, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, reported that funds raised by the UJA had assisted more than 600,000 men, women, and children

in the first six months of 1959. These, Mr. Berinstein, said, included previous immigrants and recent newcomers to Israel, distressed Jews in twenty-four overseas lands and refugees to the United States, all aided by UJA's beneficiary bodies, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Joint Distribution Committee, the New York Association for New Americans and the United Hias Service.

"American Jews," Mr. Berinstein told the conference, "are far from the point where they have finished all the great humanitarian tasks of Jewish relief and reconstruction that faced them overseas fifteen years ago this Spring when World War II ended, and Hitler was defeated." He cited the transfer since January of 5,000 immigrant families in Israel from substandard shanty-town dwellings to permanent, modest but durable, new housing as an example of the still vital work which American Jews must still make possible through UJA. "Some 85,000 immigrants still wait in the 'ma'abaroth' for the day when they too can have decent housing," he stressed.

ISRAEL'S ECONOMY GROWING STRONGER, UNITED NATIONS SURVEY SHOWS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., June 21. (JTA) -- Israel's economy is analyzed in a report issued here today by the United Nations, showing that the domestic economy of the Jewish State is becoming stronger. At the same time, the report reveals that the country's official debt in foreign exchange is also increasing. The report, entitled "Economic Developments in the Middle East: 1957-1958," will serve as a guide to the Economic and Social Council which convenes at Geneva June 30.

Every important phase of Israel's domestic economy has shown improvement in the periods covered by the report. Industrial output rose in 1957 by 11 percent, compared with the previous year. Output of manufacturing and mining industries in Israel moved upward in 1957 and 1958 at the rate of 12 percent annually. The gross value of total output, at 1957 prices, went up by 12 percent. Employment in industry rose by about 4 percent in 1957 and about 5 percent in 1958. At the same time, the report notes, there has been a rise in productivity per worker.

Gross investment in Israeli industry rose in 1957 to an estimated 123,000,000 Israeli pounds, compared with 112,000,000 pounds in 1956. Even in agriculture, there have been notable increases, despite the fact that the rainfall was low in 1958 and there was a severe drought last winter. There was an overall increase of 12 percent in Israel's farm output in 1958 over 1957, the compensating factor having been a rise in the output of fruits and dairy products.

Israelis are eating better and more than ever, the survey shows -- and are far ahead in daily food consumption as compared with Egypt. An Israeli consumed in 1955-1956 an average of 1,723 grammes of food per day, compared with 1,194 consumed daily per capita in Egypt during the period. In number of calories in that period, Israelis consumed 2,880 calories per day per person, while Egyptians consumed 2,596 calories.

Cost of Living Reported Risen; Foreign Aid Listed

The cost of living, however, has risen in Israel. The survey shows cost-of-living only for the cities of Haifa, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The figures show that cost for all items in these cities rose from an index figure of 112 in 1954 to 119 in 1955, 135 in 1957, and 139 in 1958. The index is based on 1953 costs.

When it comes to foreign trade, however, Israel's trade gap -- the difference between the value of exports and the value of imports -- is continuing its year-long rise. By 1957, the gap had fallen slightly, going down to \$337,000,000, a decrease of \$19,000,000 as compared with 1956. Israel's exports amounted to a value of \$48,000,000 in 1958, but at the same time she imported \$307,000,000 worth of goods from abroad.

In that connection, the study shows the amounts of money Israel received from abroad to offset the trade gap. In 1957, Israel received what the report calls "private donations" of \$97,000,000 plus \$45,000,000 from the sale of Israel bonds. So-called "official donations" were much higher. These included \$122,000,000 from West German reparations and restitution; \$24,000,000 from United States grants-in-aid and technical assistance; and \$20,400,000 in American loans for the purchase of United States agricultural surpluses. During that year, also, Israel repaid \$11,400,000 on older loans owed to the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

Israel's official debts in foreign exchange also keep going up. These debts, guaranteed by the Israel Government, rose from \$250,000,000 at the end of 1955 to \$501,000,000 at the end of 1956, mainly as a result of the sale of Israel bonds and borrowing from the United States. The report adds: "If the net rise of indebtedness during 1957 and 1958 is added, the debt would have reached \$567,000,000 at the end of 1957 and, provisionally, \$651,000,000 at the end of 1958."

HAMMARSKJOLD PROPOSES INTEGRATION OF ARAB REFUGEES IN MIDDLE EAST

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. June 21. (JTA) -- A plan to continue United Nations relief to the Arab refugees but, at the same time, to work toward integrating them in the broad economy of the Middle East region, at costs that will run to between \$1,500,000,000 and \$2,000,000,000 between next year and 1965, was proposed here this week-end by Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold.

Mr. Hammarskjold filed his report for consideration by the next session of the General Assembly, which will convene in September. The last session of the Assembly instructed him to prepare a report on relief activities among Arab refugees in view of the fact that the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Arab Refugees expires on June 30, 1960.

UNRWA's activities, Mr. Hammarskjold recommended in his report, should be continued pending the "reintegration of the refugees into the economic life of the Near East, either by repatriation or by resettlement." He proposed a division of functions between the agency and the "host" governments -- Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The latter governments, he proposed, are to be responsible for the general educational programs for refugees. UNRWA, however, is to continue relief, rehabilitation and projects toward making the refugees self-supporting.

One step Mr. Hammarskjold suggested for UNRWA is that it weed out its relief rolls to eliminate the "fraudulently registered and undeclared dead." At the same time, however, he recommended that children and others eligible for relief be placed on the rolls of UNRWA.

In viewing the future of the refugees, Mr. Hammarskjold recommended to the Assembly that the unemployed refugee population be considered "an asset for the future," rather than as a liability. If such an attitude is taken, the U. N. chief stated, "the reintegration of the refugee population into the productive life of the area" is a possibility. He said that there are "economic reasons" for hoping that such reintegration into the region's economy is feasible, regardless of where they are to be integrated.

Mr. Hammarskjold did not indicate the nature of the projects to be developed with the large sums of money needed by 1965, nor where those projects are to be established. But statistical tables backing up his proposals indicated clearly that it would be much cheaper to integrate the refugees in the Arab countries than in Israel.

U. N. BODY DEFERS PACT WITH ARAB LEAGUE AFTER ISRAEL'S PROTESTS

ROME, June 21. (JTA) -- A draft treaty between the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the Arab League was deferred for further study this week-end, after a heated Israeli-Arab debate before the FAO Council, the organization's ruling body, in session at FAO headquarters here.

A proposal that the FAO enter an agreement with the Arab League was brought before the Council last fall, and referred to the organization's legal and constitutional committee. That unit has since brought in a report proposing that kind of treaty.

Israel protested the proposal, first by mail, and during this session through debate led by the chief of its representation, Michael Comay, deputy director general of the Israel Foreign Ministry. Mr. Comay told the Council that the Arab League has a record of organized economic warfare against Israel, a member of the United Nations. Among the charges brought by Mr. Comay against the League was its blocking of a regional agreement on the use of the Jordan River waters, and its placement of obstacles in the efforts to control the plague of locusts.

Samir Safout, head of the United Arab Republic delegation to the Council meeting, debated the issue with Mr. Comay for three hours, often interrupting the Israeli delegate. Mr. Safout maintained there is no difference between the Arab League and other regional organizations with which the FAO has agreements, like the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States.

In reply, Mr. Comay pointed out that those organizations are genuine regional groupings and not, like the Arab League, formed "on a purely racial" basis. Following the bitter debate, the Council voted to refer the matter back to the legal and constitutional committee.

HAMMARSKJOLD CONFERS WITH ISRAELI DIPLOMAT ON SUEZ ISSUE

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. June 21. (JTA) -- Joseph Tekoah, acting permanent Israel representative to the United Nations, conferred this week-end with Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold in connection with the latter's planned departure for the Middle East this week. The talk concerned the Danish freighter, the Inge Tøft, detained by the United Arab Republic since May 21 at the Suez Canal because of the captain's refusal to surrender Israeli cargo.

RABBIS SEEK SOVIET "CLARIFICATION" ON ANTI-JEWISH ACTS IN RUSSIA

NEW YORK, June 21. (JTA) -- The New York Board of Rabbis today announced that it was seeking "clarification" from the Soviet Ambassador in Washington with regard to reported continued suppression of Judaism in the Soviet Union.

The rabbis were especially interested in a report stating that the synagogue in Chernigov, in the Ukraine, was closed last month and its Scrolls confiscated. This action followed the arrest last fall of several Jews in Chernowitz, also in the Ukraine, on charges of participation in "Zionist propaganda." According to the report, the charge was based on the participation of the defendants, who included synagogue officials, in the traditional Passover toast: "Next year in Jerusalem." The report also said that in Minsk, eight Jewish students were jailed last December on charges they organized "a Zionist cell," and that several Jews were arrested in Kishinev for baking matzoh in violation of a Government decree last Passover.

NEW FLORIDA LAW IMPOSES HEAVIER PENALTY FOR BOMBING SYNAGOGUES

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., June 21. (JTA) -- A new Florida law was in effect today designed to end terrorist bombings of the type that hit synagogues and schools throughout the South last year.

The measure was passed by the legislature this week-end. It sets a maximum ten year prison term penalty on a conviction for shooting or throwing "any missile which would produce death or great bodily harm" into a building.

JEWISH CONGRESS CRITICIZES NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR FOR SUNDAY LAW

NEWARK, N.J., June 21. (JTA) -- Sharp criticism of Gov. Meyner for signing the new state Sunday closing law was voiced here tonight by the American Jewish Congress. Adrian M. Unger of Newark, president of the state branch of the AJC, expressed "profound disappointment" at what he called the Governor's "disregard of the need to protect religious freedom" in the state.

The AJC leader said that Gov. Meyner's action in signing the measure was "particularly disturbing" in view of assurances he had given that he would take no action on the bill until protesting groups in the state had an opportunity to place their objections before him at a public hearing. "Gov. Meyner's description of the bill as not involving any religious aspects ignores repeated protests brought to his attention in recent weeks by Jewish and non-Jewish religious groups," Mr. Unger stated.

UNESCO TO PARTICIPATE IN SHOLOM ALEICHEM AND BERGSON ANNIVERSARIES

PARIS, June 21. (JTA) -- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization decided here this weekend, during a meeting of the executive board, to "stimulate and participate" in the celebrations of the hundredth anniversaries of the birth of two famous Jewish personalities -- Sholom Aleichem and Henri Bergson.

The decision of the executive board followed a resolution adopted by UNESCO's last general conference, last November, to have the organization participate in such celebrations. The names of personalities to be included on the list of celebrations were supplied by member-governments of UNESCO. The resolution pointed out the relevance of the Sholom Aleichem and Bergson anniversaries and noted that Sholom Aleichem was born on February 18, 1859, and that Bergson -- French philosopher and Nobel Prize winner -- had been born October 18, 1859.

BELGIAN KING DECORATES HARRY TORCZYNER FOR CULTURAL SERVICES

NEW YORK, June 21. (JTA) -- The Knight of the Order of Leopold II, a Belgian decoration, was awarded by King Baudouin of Belgium to Harry Torczyner, New York lawyer who is active in Jewish communal affairs, for services rendered to cultural relations between Belgium and the United States. The decoration was presented here this week-end to Mr. Torczyner by Minister Maurice Iweins d'Eeckhoutte, Belgian Consul General.

DR. DVORAH KAPLAN, WIDOW OF LATE ISRAELI MINISTER, ARRIVES IN U.S.

NEW YORK, June 21. (JTA) -- Dr. Dvorah Kaplan, widow of Eliezer Kaplan, Israel's first Minister of Finance, arrived in New York today on the liner Israel. After a short stay in this city, she will proceed to Montreal to participate in the World Pediatrics Congress. Mrs. Kaplan is a prominent Israeli pediatrician.