



Jewish Telegraphic Agency DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXVI No. 124 - 41st year

Tuesday, June 30, 1959

ISRAEL CABINET REJECTS PROPOSAL TO CANCEL ARMS DEAL WITH GERMANY

JERUSALEM, June 29. (JTA) -- A joint proposal by the left-wing members of the Israel Cabinet--the Mapam and Ahdut Avodah--demanding that Israel should cancel its arms deal with West Germany was voted down at today's special meeting of the Cabinet at which the issue was discussed.

Following the vote, Premier David Ben Gurion challenged the right of the left-wing Cabinet members to bring the same proposal before the Parliamentary Committee for Security and Foreign Affairs. He announced that he would fight such a proposal at the Committee as unconstitutional, since only the government has the prerogative to negotiate with foreign powers. The bringing of such a proposal to the Committee by members of his own Cabinet would be considered by him as an act of non-discipline, he warned.

After hurling this challenge, the Premier left the Cabinet meeting which, however, continued without him for 90 minutes. His leaving the meeting was regarded as an ultimatum, and the meeting ended inconclusively to be resumed tonight after the session of the Knesset (Parliament) at which a motion of non-confidence in the government--introduced by the Communists--will be debated.

Meanwhile, it was announced today that the General Zionist Party, which is not represented in the Cabinet, decided to support Israel's arms deal with West Germany. A resolution to this effect was adopted last night by the executive committee of the party. The resolution instructs the members of the party in the Parliament to oppose cancellation of the deal.

The General Zionist executive took this stand as a result of a meeting which its leaders had earlier yesterday with Premier Ben Gurion at which the arms deal issue was discussed. The Premier also met with leaders of other opposition parties--the National Religious Party and the Agudah Party--whom he informed about the background of the arms deal and the developments that led to the current disagreement between himself and the leftist partners of the coalition government.

Ben Gurion Makes No Offer to Opposition Parties

Mr. Ben Gurion made no offer to the opposition parties to participate in a caretaker government, but declared he regarded it as his duty to explain the situation to the "responsible opposition." The only members of the opposition not invited to the meeting were those leading the right-wing Herut Party and the Communists.

Gen. Moshe Dayan, former chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces, staunchly supported Mr. Ben Gurion on the arms-to-Germany issue, in a broadcast last night over Kol Israel, the Israel radio. Gen. Dayan debated the issue with Dr. Yohanan Bader, a member of Parliament representing Herut.

Dr. Bader, insisting that the "moral aspect" of the issue was of utmost importance, declared that the arms deal "desecrates the memory of 6,000,000 Jews" for the sake of "several million dollars." Gen. Dayan held that the Jews who perished at the hands of German Nazis during World War II would endorse the arms deal.

Those who perished, Gen. Dayan said, would tell the present generation: "Don't let such things be repeated." According to him, such an injunction would mean that Israel must strengthen itself, "and, to this end, the present arms deal contributes greatly." The former army head declared he saw no harm in sending grenade launchers to West Germany, "just as France, which is Israel's closest friend, is doing, and just as France is even co-operating with Germany in the armament field."

It was expected that the Mapam and Ahdut Avodah deputies in Parliament will vote against the non-confidence motion submitted by the Communists, but will insist on the cancellation of the arms deal when the issue is brought before the Parliamentary Committee on Security and Foreign Affairs.

The Security and Foreign Affairs Committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow, and Premier Ben Gurion indicated that, if the two left-wing groups in his coalition government raise the issue there, he will submit to the Israel Parliament the resignation of the entire Cabinet, with a view to forming a caretaker government.

BEN GURION MAKES PUBLIC MINUTES OF CABINET DISCUSSIONS ON ARMS DEAL

JERUSALEM, June 29. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, in his capacity of Defense Minister, sought the Cabinet's authorization as far back as last December to sell Israeli arms abroad under a 1949 law. This was revealed today as the government made available to the press minutes of past Cabinet meetings, to back Mr. Ben Gurion's stand in regard to the sale of grenade launchers to West Germany.

At that meeting of the Cabinet, in mid-December, Minister of Development Mordechai Bentov, a member of the left-wing Mapam Party, asked Mr. Ben Gurion: "Who is ordering the arms?" The minutes show that Mr. Ben Gurion replied: "From various countries in Europe."

Justice Minister Pinhas Rosen, of the Progressive Party, said: "We should know from which countries." Mr. Ben Gurion then said: "From a number of countries--Holland, Germany, perhaps also a third country." Mr. Ben Gurion then told the Cabinet: "I am asking for general approval."

A month later, the subject came up at another Cabinet meeting. Mr. Bentov and Israel Bar Yehuda, Minister of the Interior, representing the Ahdut Avodah, were absent that time. Mr. Ben Gurion asked the Cabinet to approve not only the sale of arms but also the manufacture of arms for that purpose. Approval was granted.

On March 29, the issue was brought before the Cabinet in another context. Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, a member of Mr. Ben Gurion's Mapai Party, informed the Cabinet that some foreign currency income was expected from West Germany. Minister of Health Israel Barzilai, of the Mapam Party, raised the question about the sale of arms to Germany.

Mr. Ben Gurion replied by asking which of the Jewish laws forbids sale of arms to West Germany. "It is not written in the Bible," responded Mr. Barzilai, "but I think we should not sell arms to Germany. I ask for a discussion of the subject."

"Good," answered the Prime Minister, "next week. But do you object to sale of arms only to West Germany or to East Germany too?" Mr. Barzilai said he objects to such sale to East Germany as well.

"Why did you travel to East Germany?" asked Mr. Ben Gurion. "I even refused to write a letter to an East German professor in regard to a book about Spinoza--although this professor is a man of sterling character. I said that, had the inquiry come from a professor in Switzerland, I would have written willingly."

"In my opinion," said Mr. Barzilai, "it is possible and necessary to travel to every international gathering in Germany, Eastern or Western. Everyone goes."

Mr. Ben Gurion insisted: "It is permissible to travel to West Germany, but not to East Germany. The East Germans have murdered and robbed and have not returned the loot. Western Germany at least wants to make reparations. But East Germany has murdered and also taken the possessions. There is the difference."

"Nevertheless," responded Mr. Barzilai, "there is a difference between travel and the sale of arms." A note added by the government to the Cabinet minutes states: "No one returned to the question of Germany or submitted any motion at the next meeting or since."

Aside from the Cabinet meeting minutes, the government revealed an exchange of letters between Mr. Ben Gurion on the one hand, and the two Ahdut Avodah Cabinet members, Minister of Communications Moshe Carmel and Minister of the Interior Israel Bar Yehudah.

On April 14, they wrote the Premier and referred to the fact that there has been no meeting on the arms deal. They declared themselves "unequivocally opposed" to the sale of arms to Germany. Reserving their right to explain their stand at a Cabinet meeting, they expressed the hope that, pending discussion, the Defense Ministry would take no steps to implement the German arms deal.

Writing from his home at Sde Boker, and asking why their letter had reached him "so late," Mr. Ben Gurion replied he had examined the Cabinet decision regarding the sale of arms and found it applied to all countries "without exception."

"You have, however," Mr. Ben Gurion wrote to Mr. Carmel and Mr. Bar Yehudah, "the right to propose cancellation of the decision. Until your proposals are adopted, the decision remains in force, and the Defense Ministry will act accordingly. On the merits of the matter, your attitude surprises me, but you are entitled to hold it, and I shall make no vain attempt to prove the absurdity of your proposal."

The two Ministers replied that they did not recall a government decision "that can be relied upon on the sale of arms to Germany by the Defense Ministry without prior consultation with the Government." They added that, even if it shows that such a decision exists, they request that the transaction should not be carried through without a discussion in the Cabinet.

Six days later, Mr. Ben Gurion reiterated the existence of the decision on this issue. He held that "arms may be sold to any country, if the Foreign Ministry does not object." He pointed out that neither of the Ministries headed by Mr. Bar Yehudah and Mr. Carmel could object.

JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES \$115,000 IN SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

NEW YORK, June 29. (JTA) -- Scholarships and Fellowships in the amount of \$115,000 have been granted for the academic year 1959-60 to 176 students and scholars throughout the world, who are victims of Nazi persecution. This was announced today by Jacob Blaustein, senior vice-president of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, which distributes these awards for Jewish study, research and creative work.

This is the sixth in the annual series of grants in the field of Jewish studies. Out of the 176 recipients, 60 are students preparing, for the most part, for careers in Jewish teaching; 36 are engaged in graduate studies and 80 are conducting independent research in the fields of Jewish scholarship and of creative arts. Mr. Blaustein said that the Conference considers one of its essential obligations to be the reconstruction of Jewish communal and cultural life and the encouragement of Jewish scholarship which the Nazis had sought to destroy. "The Conference is bending every effort to aid in the rehabilitation of Jewish creative activities," Mr. Blaustein stated.

This year, \$1,783,888 was allocated by the Conference for cultural and educational rehabilitation and for the commemoration and documentation of the Jewish Catastrophe, in an overall budget amounting to over \$10,100,000. The major portion has been earmarked for basic relief needs of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.

C. J. F. W. F. FINDS RESIDENTS OF JEWISH HOMES FOR AGED LIVE LONGER

NEW YORK, June 29. (JTA) -- Residents of Jewish homes for the aged are generally older than in previous years, live longer, are subject to more ailments and require an increasing amount of medical care and services. These are among the major findings of the National Study of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds on the health needs of residents of Jewish homes for the aged.

The report was issued today by Dr. Franz Goldmann, director of the four-year study on coordination of community health services. The study is sponsored by the CJFWF and is financed by a grant from the United States Public Health Service.

The findings are based on a survey of five Jewish homes for the aged, four of them in the United States and the fifth in Canada, selected from the 70 homes for the aged under Jewish auspices throughout the United States and Canada. These provide quarters for a total of 11,127 residents.

Arteriosclerosis and mental impairment were found to be the most widespread ailments afflicting the aged. The greatest scourge, Dr. Goldmann declared, was mental impairment, ranging from loss of mental vigor to extreme deficiencies. At the four homes in the United States almost 70 percent of all infirmity patients were mentally confused. The Canadian home, in Toronto, accommodated their mentally confused residents in a special section.

Average Age of Residents is 80; Women Outnumber Men

The study revealed that the average age of the residents had risen to 80 years. Dr. Goldmann said this is similar to the age level in non-sectarian homes and in some foreign countries, particularly England. The women outnumber the men by over 50 percent.

Two crucial questions raised by the study are: To what extent can the Jewish homes for the aged assume responsibility for the care of the mentally impaired without neglecting the needs of other ailing residents? And how can an extended psychiatric service be organized and financed?

The financial problems created by the increasing health needs of the residents are likely to grow more serious in the future, Dr. Goldmann declared. The average age in the homes will most likely continue to climb and with the added years will come increased health problems. Dr. Goldmann also believed that expansion and improvement of health services will result from community pressures for adequate institutional care for more people with prolonged illness or serious impairment.

The residents cannot be expected to absorb the resultant increase in costs, he said. The economic conditions of the residents, as revealed by the study, show their dependence on both public assistance and Old Age Survivors Insurance. Forty percent are supported by public assistance and 41 percent receive OASI or the Canadian equivalent.

Very few had supplementary incomes from investments or private pensions and in almost every instance OASI payments were supplemented by payments from other sources, mostly public assistance. This added to the findings of the study which stressed the importance of adequate public assistance and especially of improved rates of payment to homes for the aged which actually perform the functions of highly developed nursing homes, Dr. Goldmann declared.

The Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds is the national association of local federations and welfare funds representing more than 800 Jewish communities throughout the United States and Canada. These central communal organizations annually raise the bulk of American Jewish philanthropic funds.

ANTI-SEMITISM NO LONGER OF PARAMOUNT CONCERN TO U.S. JEWS, LEADER SAYS

KIAMESHA LAKE, N. Y., June 29. (JTA) -- The 72nd annual four-day convention of Brith Abraham opened here yesterday in the presence of more than 1,000 delegates representing 275 lodges throughout the country. Dr. Joachaim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress, addressing the delegates, today stressed that "anti-Semitism has ceased to be an issue of paramount concern today to the Jews of America." At the same time he declared that American Jewry is "developing a diluted, superficial interpretation of Jewish heritage."

"The knowledge of the sources of our heritage and the language in which they are written are no longer the sure possession of either youth or adults," he said. "Our real concern is not mere physical survival. Our deep and grave concern is the creative continuity of one of the oldest and noblest heritages in the Western civilization."

Dr. Prinz spoke on the future of American Jewry. "Our problem is the degree and the depth of the survival of our heritage," he stated. "Such survival is not guaranteed by building programs, fund-raising or community organization, however efficient."

"Our problem is not belongingness. Our problem is how to develop a full commitment to Judaism at a time and in a world where we are free to be or not to be Jews. Our problem is to identify ourselves not only with our fellow Jews today but with our fellow Jews of the past--by which I mean our Jewish heritage: our language, our literature, our history and our eternal hopes."

5,000 HEAR GOLDA MEIR IN RIO; ADDRESSES OPENING OF JEWISH APPEAL

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 29. (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, visiting this country on a state visit as part of her Latin American tour, devoted the week-end to contacts with the Brazilian Jewish community.

Five thousand persons crowded the largest film theatre in this city yesterday to hear Mrs. Meir address a meeting which opened Brazil's United Jewish Appeal. Last night, 250 of the largest contributors to the UJA attended a banquet in her honor.

CAMDEN JEWISH APPEAL EXCEED LAST YEAR'S DRIVE BY 40 PERCENT

CAMDEN, N. J., June 29. (JTA) -- Officials of the Allied Jewish Appeal of Camden disclosed today that the 1959 drive has topped the 1958 contributions and that the average increases in gifts has been 40 percent above that of 1958.

The 1959 campaign passed the \$210,000 mark, which was the total for the 1958 campaign, with unreported pledges from givers who contributed \$50,000 last year. The 40 percent increase figure marked Camden Jewry as one of the leading American Jewish communities in percentage of increase over the previous year's contributions.

PHILADELPHIA JEWISH COUNCIL OPPOSES SUNDAY LAW; PROPOSES AMENDMENT

PHILADELPHIA, June 29. (JTA) -- The proposed Sunday closing law, which drastically increases penalties imposed by the present statute for violations of the Sunday Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, was opposed by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Philadelphia at public hearings before the Rules Committee of the Pennsylvania State Legislature held today.

The JCRC, which represents 31 local and national organizations as the official community relations agency of the Jewish community in the Greater Philadelphia area, opposed the proposed bill as being essentially religious legislation and therefore without place in a democracy committed to religious freedom and separation of church and state. However, the JCRC declared it would favor an amendment to the existing Sunday law which would exempt from its operation those persons who, because of religious convictions, abstain from labor and secular business on a day other than Sunday.

CANADIAN JEWISH LEADERS HONORED DURING QUEEN ELIZABETH'S VISIT

MONTREAL, June 29. (JTA) -- Canadian Orthodox Jewish leaders were given special honors this week-end during the visit to Canada of Queen Elizabeth II. Rabbi Zernach Zambrowsky, the head of the Mizrahi in Canada, was seated at the head table during the formal royal dinner tendered here to the Queen and to Prince Philip. Rabbi Shai Hershorn, head of the Orthodox Rabbinical Council here, and Lazarus Philipps, leader of the Montreal Talmud Torah, were guests of the Queen and Prince Philip at a dinner aboard the royal yacht in Montreal harbor.

DR. JAMES BERNSTEIN, HIAS LEADER, DIES; RESCUED THOUSANDS OF NAZI VICTIMS

NEW YORK, June 29. (JTA) -- Dr. James Bernstein, member of the board of directors of the United Hias Service and former European director of the Hias, died here today at the age of 84.

Born in Russia, he came to the United States in 1891 and studied medicine here. He served in the medical corps of the U.S. Army during World War II. In 1925 he became the director of the Hias operations in Europe and held this post for more than 20 years, aiding in the emigration and rescue of tens of thousands of Jews from Nazi Germany and other lands occupied by the Nazi army.