



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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Vol. XXVI No. 167 - 41st year Friday, August 28, 1959

JEWISH AGENCY REFUTES CHARGES OF BIAS AGAINST NORTH AFRICAN JEWS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency produced facts and figures today to disprove allegations that Jewish immigrants from North Africa were subjected to official discrimination in housing and settlement.

Charges that such discrimination existed, and was a root cause of recent disturbances by North African immigrants in Haifa and other centers, had been aired followed the disorders.

Dov Joseph, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, told the press today that, while immigrants from North Africa constituted 21 percent of the total immigration, they constituted 25 percent of Israelis settled on the land--the more expensive form of absorption and resettlement. But while, on the average, 31 percent of the immigrants abandoned the agricultural settlements for one reason or another, the ratio of North Africans quitting the land was 34 percent.

The Jewish Agency leader charged that a large number of the North African immigrants now living under slum conditions in Haifa had given up homes in agricultural settlements, or had refused to occupy new housing developments because they objected to their location.

He noted that, when these houses, which the North Africans had rejected and which had remained vacant, were assigned to immigrants from Europe, the cry immediately went up that the newcomers were being given preference over the North African Jews.

As an example of the comparative difficulties in absorbing European and North African immigrants, Mr. Joseph pointed out that 82 percent of the bread-winners in the European immigrant families had some profession or trade. Among the North Africans, however, only four percent had such qualifications.

In a further refutation of bias charges, Mr. Joseph declared that 70 percent of all the children who had been cared for in institutions of the Youth Aliyah were the children of Oriental Jewish parents. Of the present population of the Youth Aliyah homes he said, 90 percent were of Oriental Jewish parentage.

PREMIER BEN GURION RETURNS TO ISRAEL; HELD NO POLITICAL TALKS IN FRANCE

HAIFA, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- Rested and sun-tanned after a "total rest" ordered by his physicians, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion returned home today, following a vacation on the French Riviera, ready to plunge into the national elections campaign.

While in France, the Prime Minister said, he obeyed his physician's orders about resting so strictly that he did not even attempt to get in touch with former French Prime Minister Guy Mollet, who was occupying a villa near the residence rented by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Gurion. He said he held no political meetings with anyone in France.

"All I did in the nature of work while I was there," he said, "was write a foreword and a survey for the next issue of the Israel Year Book." Mr. Ben Gurion said he will start actively participating in the election campaign next Sunday.

CEYLON REPORTED BY EGYPT AS CANCELLING PURCHASE OF ISRAELI FRIGATES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- The deal involving the sale by Israel of two frigates to the Government of Ceylon was reported cancelled, according to a broadcast over the Cairo radio monitored here today.

The broadcast said the cancellation was agreed to at a meeting between United Arab Republic President Gamal Abdel Nasser and Ceylon's Ambassador in Cairo. Israel circles here said they had no information of the reported cancellation.

A Ceylonese minesweeper, the Parakram, with a crew of 100 men sent to take over the first of the frigates, has been docked in the Protectorate of Aden pending an assurance by the United Arab Republic requested by Ceylon that the frigates would not be molested when passing through the Straits of Tiran. The frigates are in the Israel harbor of Eilat, on the Gulf of Akaba.

HAMMARSKJOLD EVASIVE ON FREEDOM OF PASSAGE FOR ISRAEL IN SUEZ CANAL

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold said today that there was no "conflict" between the United Arab Republic and the United Nations over the question of freedom of passage in the Suez Canal.

In reply to questions at a press conference, the UN chief declared that "certain decisions have not been carried out, but there is no conflict." He noted that the Inge Toft case and the denial of passage to ships carrying cargo from or destined for Israel had not been submitted to the Security Council.

Asked about the problem of the Palestine Arab refugees, Mr. Hammarskjold repeated his view that a final solution of this problem could be reached only if it were acceptable to the refugees.

20 POLITICAL GROUPS TO PRESENT SEPARATE LISTS IN ISRAEL ELECTIONS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- At least 20 political factions would present separate lists of candidates for the November elections to the Knesset, Israel's parliament, Supreme Court Justice Y. Sussman, chairman of the Central Election Committee, predicted today. There are 14 parties in the present Knesset.

The election committee has already distributed applications requested by 40 parties, and at least half of these are expected to produce the required 750 signatures before the deadline for filing lists in two weeks.

Some friction has arisen among the factions of the National Religious front, which combines the Mizrachi and the Hapoel Hamizrachi parties. The latter faction has demanded that its candidate be placed in the top position on the list, otherwise the party threatens to enter a separate list.

It was learned today that the Semitic Action group, known as the "Canaanites," decided not to present its own list. The group had previously said it would name as head of its list David Ben Haroush, the self-proclaimed leader of the North African immigrants. Haroush is now facing trial in Haifa for inciting the recent Wadi Salib riots. The "Canaanites" seemed to think that Haroush's candidacy would bring about his release from jail.

Rabbi Mordechai Nurock, well-known former leader of Latvian Jewry and now a member of the Knesset, announced today that he would present his own list of candidates for the general elections. He expressed dissatisfaction with the place given his Knesset candidacy by the National Religious Party, of which he is a member. He called it an "unsafe" place. He has issued an appeal to all Latvian Jews in Israel to support his ticket.

Meanwhile, the National Religious Party has set up an Arabic section to develop its relationships with the minorities in connection with the forthcoming general elections. The first rally of Arabs held by the Jewish religious group was attended by 200, both Moslems and Christians. Among them were sheiks, imams, tribal leaders and elders.

National Religious Party members of the last Knesset addressed the meeting and told the guests that their interests would be served best by supporting the party which adhered to the Mosaic Code and traditional Jewish ethics. Some of the guests at the meeting stressed the identity of views and interests shared by the devout of all faiths.

CIVIL SERVANTS IN ISRAEL NOTIFIED THEY MUST OBTAIN CITIZENSHIP

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- All civil servants in Israel were notified by the Government today that, in accordance with a new law enacted by the Parliament earlier this year, all civil service workers who have not obtained Israeli citizenship by September 15 "will be regarded as having resigned." Employees thus dismissed for this reason will not be eligible to severance pay, according to the official notice.

The citizenship ruling, according to the Civil Service Commission, does not apply to temporary employes or to officials working for the Government under special contracts.

A propaganda campaign directed at Arab citizens of Israel, urging them to refuse to accept appointments to Government or Israel Federation of Labor jobs, has been begun by the Communist Party here. More Arabs have been engaged in official or quasi-official posts of late, as an ever-increasing number of Arabs obtain higher education, fitting themselves for civil service or other public service employment.

ARAB LEAGUE BLACKLISTS MORE U. S. FIRMS FOR TRADING WITH ISRAEL

LONDON, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- The Arab League's boycott office disclosed today it had recommended the blacklisting of six American, three British, two French and two Swiss firms, all engaged in the electrical industry, on the grounds that they had violated the Arab anti-Israel boycott regulations.

Yesterday the League announced that it had added fifteen more American and European companies to the list of firms barred from doing business in Arab countries on the ground that they violated the Arab boycott of Israel.

ISRAEL RENEWS CLAIM AGAINST BULGARIA FOR SHOOTING DOWN EL AL PLANE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- Israel is going to take its claim for material damages growing out of the shooting down of an El Al plane over Bulgaria in 1955--with consequent loss of 58 lives--directly to the Bulgarian government, it was learned here today. Nathan Peled, Israeli Minister at Sofia, was said to have been given a note which he is to deliver to the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry, claiming \$2,700,000 in damages.

Israel lost its case on this issue before the International Court of Justice at The Hague, last Summer, when the court ruled that it lacked jurisdiction, as Bulgaria had contended. While Bulgaria had told the International Court that Israel could bring suit in a Bulgarian court, Israel has rejected the approach, partly because Bulgaria insists that, in any such action, Israel must concede that it shared the responsibility for the fatal incident.

The El Al Israel plane, shot down by Bulgarian fighter planes, on July 27, 1955, constituted an unjustified attack by Bulgaria against an innocent, commercial flight, Israel maintains. The Foreign Ministry has, therefore, decided to approach the Bulgarian Government directly, instead of suing in a Bulgarian court.

INDIVIDUAL EMIGRATION IS PERMITTED BY RUMANIA, AMBASSADOR SAYS

PARIS, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- Any Rumanian citizen who wants to leave the country "is free to do so," Dr. Balanescu, Rumanian Ambassador to France, declared at a news conference here today. "He has only to ask for an exit visa," added the envoy.

The Rumanian Ambassador made the statement in reply to a question about the present status of Jewish emigration from Rumania. However, Dr. Balanescu, who is Jewish, said further: "Of course, we do not accept mass emigration. Each case must be examined separately. We shall grant only individual exit visas."

GERMAN POLICE OFFICER SUSPENDED FOR SHOUTING INSULTS AT JEWS

AUGSBURG, Germany, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- A police officer here was charged with libel today and suspended from the police force for shouting insults at Jews.

Josef Holzmann was accused of having shouted in a bar: "You filthy Jews. They forgot to gas you, but the Adenauer regime will not last much longer and your time will come too." A police disciplinary board is expected to review the case.

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF FRANCE PRESENTS VIEWS ON SCHOOLS TO GOVERNMENT

PARIS, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- A report on the Jewish community's position regarding the relationship between the Government of France and the privately-operated Jewish schools in this country, was presented to a special study commission today by Georges Wormser, president of the Central Jewish Consistory of France.

The study commission is surveying the entire problem of government-school relationships, which has become a major issue in French internal politics. The Jewish section of the survey, as well as other portions, is being kept secret until the commission presents its overall report to the Government.

HUNGARIAN ACADEMY PUBLISHES CATALOGUE OF RARE HEBREW MANUSCRIPTS

VIENNA, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- A catalogue of works dealing with Hebrew learning and lore, containing listings of upward of 600,000 manuscripts and many thousands of rare and ancient Jewish books, has been published in Budapest, according to a dispatch reaching here today from Hungary.

The catalogue was compiled and edited by the Hungarian Academy of Science. It has been issued in four languages by the Kaufman Collection of Budapest. Orientalists throughout the world will be notified by the Budapest publishers which are ready, according to the dispatch, to furnish the catalogue to scholars in all countries.

SWISS UNIVERSITY TO OFFER COURSE ON TALMUD; FIRST IN THE COUNTRY

GENEVA, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- For the first time in Switzerland, a course on talmudic study will be offered at a university in this country, beginning the next semester.

The course is being offered at the old University of Neuchatel, and will be conducted by Rabbi Rouche, of La Choux de Sonds. In addition to regular students at the university, the enrollment for the course, according to university administration, includes to date a number of Protestant clergymen.

J.C.A. TO SPEND \$412,000 ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COLONIES IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- The Jewish Colonization Association will finance the establishment of two new settlements in the Lachish area at a cost of 750,000 Israeli pounds (\$412,500), it was announced here today by Abraham Hartzfeld, chairman of the Agricultural Bank.

The JCA, founded by Baron Maurice de Hirsch in 1891, has spent large sums throughout the world to aid the establishment of Jews in agricultural settlements.

PRESIDENT'S BODY ON BIAS IN EMPLOYMENT GETS FEW JEWISH COMPLAINTS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- Only 12 persons of the Jewish faith filed complaints of discrimination in Federal employment over an 18-month period reported today by the President's Committee on Government Employment Policy.

Jewish complaints were but five percent of the total recorded, while Negro complaints totalled 85.7 percent. The complaints pertained mostly to denial of promotion, separation, and failure of appointment.

The Presidential committee reported that racial discrimination in Government employment has been reduced, but some major problems remained to be solved. One problem is to identify discrimination whenever it occurs. Another is to remove improper conditions and practices which foster discrimination. A third is to determine whether situations in which minority group members are conspicuously absent are due to lack of qualified applicants or to discrimination.

The committee helps government departments and Federal agencies enforce the anti-discrimination policies of the Government. Nearly 3,000 top Federal administrators in 75 cities participated in conferences aimed at implementing the non-discrimination policy, according to the report.

NEW YORK U. J. A. RAISES \$26,400,000 IN 1959 DRIVE; CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

NEW YORK, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- Generous support by contributors has enabled the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York to raise \$26,400,000 thus far in 1959, it was reported today at a luncheon meeting of 100 key volunteers at New York UJA headquarters.

The report on the progress of this year's UJA drive in the New York area was delivered by Charles Frost. Mr. Frost said that those whose contributions make up the \$26,400,000 raised thus far this year have increased their giving by an average of twelve percent over 1958.

Some \$3,000,000 in cash and pledges was obtained during a summer-long person-to-person drive which had been conducted from telephone rooms at campaign headquarters and came to a close at yesterday's meeting. Former Governor Averell Harriman, person-to-person chairman for the month of August; Samuel D. Leidesdorf, chairman for July; and Mayor Robert F. Wagner, chairman for June, were honored at the luncheon for their leadership of the summer drive.

LAYMAN WINS POST OF MIAMI INSPECTOR OF KASHRUTH; ORTHODOX WANTED RABBI

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Aug. 27. (JTA) -- The Miami Beach City Council has reappointed a layman for a two-year term as City Inspector of Kashruth after Jewish religious leaders had differed sharply as to whether or not only a qualified rabbi could fill the job. The inspector's task is to police meat markets to see that there is no violation of the city's ordinances on representation of products as kosher.

A strong fight against reappointment of Frank Brickman to the job was led by spokesmen for the Community Vaad Hakashruth of Greater Miami, which insisted that the appointment had to go to a rabbi. The organization charged that "the City of Miami Beach can not disregard the Orthodox community by covering the kosher merchants with a city ordinance that infringes upon Orthodox religious law."

Rabbinical supporters of the inspector said that the question of kashruth fell into two categories, religious, dealing with the meat itself, and surveillance, which was primarily policing against misrepresentation. A rabbi was not needed for the policing job, they said. The council held that the city inspector was not supposed to pass on a religious matter like kashruth but only to make certain there was no misrepresentation involved.

ASHER LEVITSKY, LEADING ISRAELI LAWYER, DEAD; APPEARED AT CAIRO TRIAL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Asher Levitsky, an outstanding member of the Israel bar and the country's leading criminal lawyer, who died in Tel Aviv yesterday. He was 56 years old. President Itzhak Ben Zvi was represented at the services held in the presence of the Chief Justice and members of the Supreme Court, members of the Cabinet, heads of the Israeli bar associations and the Freemasons. Mr. Levitsky was deputy grand master of the local lodge.

Mr. Levitsky received international attention during the period of the British Mandate when he defended Revisionist youths on terrorism charges. He went to Cairo in 1943 to undertake the defense of two young Jewish terrorists accused of the assassination there of Lord Moyne, the British Secretary of State.

During the 1948 War of Liberation, Mr. Levitsky served in the Israeli Army as a liaison officer with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. Later, he served as an adviser to the Israeli Ministry of Justice.