



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXVI No. 204 - 41st year Thursday, October 22, 1959

ISRAEL TO PRODUCE OWN AUTOS; SPURRED BY RENAULT'S WITHDRAWAL

JERUSALEM, Oct. 21, (JTA) -- Within the next two years Israel-made automobiles, assembled at the Kaiser-Frazer plant at Haifa, will be exhibited throughout the world as a result of the cancellation of operations in Israel by the French auto firm, Renault, representatives of the press were told here today by Ephraim Illin, manager of the Kaiser-Frazer plant.

Mr. Illin said that while the Renault decision was a "severe blow," he hoped that the action would lead to production of an all-Israel compact car soon. He quoted Finance Minister Levi Eshkol as telling him that "the Arabs closed ports--we opened new ports; the British refused to give certificates for immigrants--we built a state and opened the doors; Renault is discontinuing to supply parts--Illin, go and construct Israel cars."

Mr. Illin said that the Kaiser-Frazer company, in which American investors hold the majority of shares, would bring to the attention of "enlightened Jewish and non-Jewish opinion of the whole world" the facts in the "capitulation to the Arab boycott" by Renault. The French firm has insisted that economic factors, such as taxes and high production costs, were the decisive considerations in the decision to halt Israel operations.

The Kaiser-Frazer company here plans to start a \$2,000,000 suit for damages, against the Renault firm in Paris for breaking its contract. One-third of the Kaiser-Frazer plant's capacity was used for Renault assembly.

Israel's Cabinet to Discuss Renault Case; Factors Analyzed

While talks on the Renault case were scheduled in the Foreign Ministry in preparation for a discussion at Sunday's Cabinet meeting, there was a tendency in Israel official circles today to play down implications that the Renault firm had bowed to the Arab boycott. Three factors were considered involved in the Renault decision. These were suggested as the Arab boycott, French foreign politics and Renault's profits.

It was believed that without the boycott pressure, the cancellation would probably have not taken place and that even under boycott pressures, the operation would have been continued if profits to Renault were substantial. In fact, it was understood, the profits were small, particularly in comparison to the Arab market.

Observers suggested also that even the boycott and the limited profits would not have led to cancellation if the French Government wanted the Haifa operations to continue. But there evidently was no such wish, a fact related to French efforts to improve relations with President Nasser of the United Arab Republic as part of the bid for an Algerian settlement.

What Israel officials particularly resented, it was reported, was the manner in which the Renault shutdown was carried out. Kaiser-Frazer officials were given reason to believe that the operations would continue after the decision to cancel had been taken.

Renault Case to be Raised in French Parliament, Deputy Says

PARIS, Oct. 21, (JTA) -- The France-Israel Friendship Alliance approved a resolution at its third annual meeting today to ask President Charles de Gaulle to examine the Renault company's decision to end operations in Israel and to ask him to see to it that "France stops giving in to the Arab boycott" against Israel.

Deputy Raymond Schmittlein told the meeting that he would bring the issue up in Parliament. The Renault company is partly owned by the French Government.

French Minister Jacques Soustelle, who is president of the Alliance, called for strengthening of French-Israel ties "in a common struggle for peace." He stressed the significance of the presence at the annual meeting of two Algerian deputies, Ali Nalem and Bachaga Boulem. He said their attendance demonstrated the spirit in which the Alliance was formed and in which it operates.

Deputy Ali Nalem paid tribute to Israel "for finally entering once again the promised land" and said that the enemies of France were the same forces as the enemies of Israel. Arie Ben Eliezer, a member of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, said that the Arab states were still at war with Israel and that they were still receiving arms which they wanted to use against Israel.

DUTCH FIRM TO BUILD SHIPYARD AT HAIFA; AGREEMENT SIGNED IN HOLLAND

THE HAGUE, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- Agreement was reached here yesterday between Israel and the De Schelde firm, Dutch shipyard builders, for the construction of a shipbuilding and repair yard at Haifa.

The contract for the project, involving an initial \$20,000,000 capital investment, was officially signed in the presence of Israel's Ambassador to The Hague, Chanan Gidori; John Hupkes, director general of the Schelde firm and Jacob Libertowski, director general of Israel Shipyards, Ltd.

The contract provides for a twelve-year period during which Dutch engineers, administrators and technicians will participate in the direction of the enterprise.

NATIONAL BANK OF ISRAEL OPENS AGENCY IN NEW YORK; GETS LICENSE

NEW YORK, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- The New York agency of Bank Leumi le-Israel-- National Bank of Israel, Ltd., --Israel's largest and oldest bank, was officially opened here today by Dr. Y. Foerder, chairman of the board. Dr. Foerder also announced the appointments of Gideon Strauss as agent and Theodore K. Landau as assistant agent. A license to conduct the bank's New York agency operations was issued to Bank Leumi last month by the Superintendent of Banks of the State of New York.

"Bank Leumi is not a newcomer to the American scene," Dr. Foerder told a press conference here. "During the past nine years our representative office in New York has played an important role in the development of trade between the United States and Israel and has materially contributed to bringing about closer financial relationships between the two countries. The establishment of the agency will allow us more fully to place our organization and experience at the service of the business communities of the United States, Israel and other countries."

Dr. Foerder said that the rapidly growing economy of Israel and its expanding interests overseas require very specialized experience as well as an integrated and efficient international banking organization. Bank Leumi's New York agency will be fully equipped to serve these requirements.

In addition to the direct services provided its clients by the agency, Dr. Foerder stated that Bank Leumi will continue to actively develop its business with a large and growing number of banks in the United States and elsewhere with whom it maintains correspondent relationships.

Touching on the economic outlook in Israel, Dr. Foerder said that whether Israel will be economically self-supporting in the not too distant future will be largely dependent on its attitude and that of its friends abroad to the following six points:

1. Expansion of industry and exports; 2. Expansion of the volume of savings in order to provide more substantial domestic means of industrial finance; 3. Balancing the government budget and maintaining credit restrictions to the extent that they do not excessively hamper the normal growth of the economy; 4. Maintenance of the present standard of living during the coming five years and stabilization of the price level; 5. Continued mobilization of funds, at least at its present level, both through philanthropic "Appeals" and the sale of bonds, and 6. The endeavor to increase substantially foreign private capital investment.

"As regards the first four points, the problems they raise must be solved by Israel - as to the last, we must depend entirely on our friends abroad, chiefly in the U.S. If the economy can rely on the fulfillment of these conditions I am prepared to say that we can reach stability in four or five years," Dr. Foerder stated.

ZIONIST CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN JERUSALEM IN JULY, EXECUTIVE DECIDES

JERUSALEM, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- The 25th World Zionist Congress will open in Jerusalem on July 12, 1960, the Jewish Agency executive decided today.

While no agenda has as yet been drawn up, it is expected that the 10-day Congress will deal with the problem of broadening the World Zionist Organization expanding the composition of the Jewish Agency and reorganization of the Agency's functions in Israel.

PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL ENTERTAINED BY BURMESE PREMIER IN RANGOON

RANGOON, Burma, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- Israel's President Izhak Ben-Zvi today visited ancient sites and Buddhist temples here, including the famous golden Shwedagon pagoda, during the third day of his state visit to Burma.

He was later entertained by Premier Ne Win and family. During the day, former Burmese Premier U Nu, who visited Israel in 1955, called on President Ben-Zvi. Mrs. Ben-Zvi and three foreign ministry aides are accompanying the Israeli President on his Burmese tour.

SOVIET PRESS IN UKRAINE CONTINUES TO PUBLISH ANTI-SEMITIC ARTICLES

JERUSALEM, Oct. 21, (JTA) -- The Soviet press, particularly that of the Ukraine, continues to publish anti-Semitic articles and cartoons, according to reports received here today.

A single issue of Dnyesterskaya Pravda recently contained three anti-Semitic articles. One, purportedly written "voluntarily" by three persons identifying themselves as "old Jews," offered readers "disclosures" on "the lies and falsehoods of the Jewish religion" and on "dirty transactions" allegedly conducted in synagogues.

The second article, headlined "What is Judaism?" described the Jewish religion as a "reactionary movement linked with American imperialism and ruling United States circles." The third item is a "feuilleton" about "a Jewish mother's attempts to cheat Soviet school authorities to gain advantages for her daughter." The same issue carries cartoons of Jewish figures apparently engaged in illegal trading.

A recent issue of Kievskaya Pravda carries an article purportedly signed by two Jews describing black market activities allegedly conducted in synagogues. An issue of the Znamya Communista contains an article giving contents of letters allegedly received from Israel complaining of "horrible conditions" there.

It was recalled here that following the firing of a synagogue and a cemetery caretaker's cottage in a Moscow suburb, experts on the Soviet Union here pointed out that while there was no doubt Soviet authorities were against such acts, anti-Semitic articles in the Soviet press were certainly contributing factors to them.

J. D. C. FINDS MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN SITUATION OF JEWS IN POLAND

GENEVA, Oct. 21, (JTA) -- Gratification that none of Poland's 40,000 Jews is hungry or shelterless was expressed today by Charles H. Jordan, European director of the Joint Distribution Committee on his return from a 10-day tour of Poland.

"Conditions today are in marked contrast with what we found when we resumed welfare operations in Poland exactly two years ago," he said. "We came into the country primarily to meet the needs of the thousands of Jews repatriated from Russia. We found, however that large groups of the settled Jewish population--the aged, the invalided, the unemployable and their families--were not eligible for public relief under existing welfare programs or were receiving a stipend insufficient to meet their needs."

He said the program the JDC organized "has served 20,000 men, women and children during the past year, providing them with emergency relief, housing assistance, cash grants, feeding programs, medical assistance, vocational training through ORT, religious education and supplies, care of the aged and support of a summer camp program for children."

Mr. Jordan reported that in company with Max Braude, director general of ORT's world-wide program, and Samuel Haber, assistant director general of JDC in Europe, he was received by Stanislaw Zawadzki, the Polish Minister of Labor and Welfare. He said the Polish official "expressed his satisfaction with the results achieved by JDC and ORT during the past few years." Meetings also were held with leaders of Jewish cultural, social and welfare groups in Poland and with the Vaad Hakehilot which represents organized Jewish religious life in Poland.

Kosher Canteens Function; 20 Talmud Torahs Exist; Synagogues Repaired

"The Vaad Hakehilot also operates 16 canteens throughout Poland in which hot kosher meals are served six days a week," the JDC official said. "These canteens supplement the cash relief we provide to 7,535 families and our school feeding programs through which 2,500 children are served daily. Thus every needy Jew in the country is ensured of a daily supply of food."

He reported that, in addition, regular monthly allocations to the Vaad Hakehilot have made possible the functioning of 20 Talmud Torahs and have enabled the Vaad to repair synagogues and to buy needed religious items. The JDC also has provided periodicals and films to the Vaad for use in religious schools. Another important element in the JDC finance and religious programs in Poland is the restoration of Jewish cemeteries destroyed or defiled by the war and vandalism, Mr. Jordan stated.

He said that during the past two years, ORT conducted vocational courses for 4,600 trainees with JDC providing stipends to cover the living costs of the trainees. JDC also made loans to 125 artisans and to 800 members of ten cooperative workshops to enable them to become self-supporting, he reported.

"Most of these Jews were repatriates from Russia, and during the past three years 19,000 of them entered Poland, of whom about 6,000 left for Israel and other countries," he said. The remaining 13,000 were not entitled to any welfare benefits after receiving an initial grant from the Polish Government. Providing them with training and work opportunities was, therefore, a major element in JDC and ORT efforts, Mr. Jordan stated.

SO. AFRICAN JEW TO BECOME MAYOR OF JOHANNESBURG; FACES NO RIVALS

JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- Deputy Mayor Alea Gorshel, a prominent member of the Jewish community here, is expected to succeed the present Jewish mayor of Johannesburg, Ian Maltz, following next month's mayoralty election here. The Johannesburg City Council will nominate Mr. Gorshel for the post, it was learned today.

Mr. Gorshel's election is considered certain as minority groups are unlikely to propose a rival candidate. Both Mayor Maltz and Deputy Mayor Gorshel have won the respect of all sections of Johannesburg for their civic work.

CHICAGO MAYOR REFUSES TO REMOVE NATIVITY SCENE FROM CITY HALL

CHICAGO, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- Mayor Richard J. Daley has rejected an appeal by a group of religious organizations and individuals to end a long-standing practice of decorating the main floor corridor of City Hall with a creche depicting the Nativity Scene, it was learned today.

The mayor acted after the groups released a statement disclosing their representatives had met with the mayor last July 9 with a plea against display of the creche as a violation of the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.

In rejecting the plea, Mayor Daley said: "We are a Christian nation. I think the more religion we can get with politics, the better off we are. The Nativity Scene was approved by the city council more than five years ago at the request of the late Alderman Clarence Wagner. It has long been a custom to show the exhibit."

The organizations which appealed to the mayor were the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Jewish Congress, the Chicago Area Council of Liberal Churches, the Chicago Area Liberal Ministers Association, the Chicago Council of Traditional Synagogues and the Jewish War Veterans.

JEWISH AGENCY ESTABLISHES OFFICE IN LOS ANGELES; NAMES REPRESENTATIVE

NEW YORK, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- In response to increasing requests for its educational and guidance services in the West Coast area, the Jewish Agency has assigned Gershon Asculai as its West Coast representative, it was announced here today by the Jewish Agency executive, Mr. Asculai, formerly director of the Agency's Youth Department in New York, will establish an office in Los Angeles.

Mr. Asculai's duties will center around two major programs: close contact with youth organizations in the West Coast region and Aliya matters. He will be available for consultation on all phases of programming, including the dissemination of the Jewish Agency's extensive youth and educational literature and audio visual materials, and the planning of Israel summer tours, workshops and other Israel work-study programs.

As representative of the Agency's Aliya department, Mr. Asculai will offer information and guidance to prospective settlers with regard to housing, employment and educational facilities in Israel. He will be available for consultation with pioneer youths, middle class settlers and persons of retirement age who wish to settle in Israel. In addition, Mr. Asculai will represent PATWA, the Jewish Agency's Department for Professional Technical Workers Aliya, and assist persons who wish to attend Ulpanim, the special seminars for the intensive study of Hebrew in Israel.

120 AMERICAN AND CANADIAN YOUTH ARRIVE IN ISRAEL FOR STUDY

JERUSALEM, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- A group of 120 American and Canadian youths aged 18 to 25 years, arrived in Israel today under the Jewish Agency's Study and Hachsharah training scheme. The group includes youth from Hahonim, B'nei Akiva, Dror, Young Hadassah, Student Zionist and Young Judea movements.

CORNERSTONE FOR FIRST SYNAGOGUE IN NAZARETH LAID; ARAB MAYOR PRESENT

NAZARETH, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- The cornerstone for the first synagogue to serve the new Jewish quarter here, was laid today in the presence of the Minister for Religious Affairs, Rabbi Yaacov Toledano and Mayor Amin Jarjoura of Nazareth.

The Jewish quarter currently houses several thousand new immigrants and some Government officials. During the High Holy Days this year, services were held in temporary quarters. Speaking at today's ceremony, Rabbi Toledano stressed that the construction of the Nazareth synagogue--the first in 2,000 years--symbolized brotherhood and peace between the three religions which meet here.

AMERICAN MIZRACHI WOMEN TO PRESENT AWARD TO FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR

NEW YORK, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- Former U.S. Ambassador Edward B. Lawson, who served as American envoy to Israel from 1954-1959, has been named 1959 recipient of the annual "America-Israel Friendship Award" of the Mizrachi Women's Organization of America, it was announced here by Mrs. Moses Dyckman, national president of the organization.