



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16. N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXVI No. 219 - 41st year Friday, November 13, 1959

ISRAEL REITERATES OFFER AT U. N. FOR DIRECT PEACE TALKS WITH ARABS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 12. (JTA) -- In the midst of one of the most turbulent debates of Israeli-Arab issues heard in the United Nations in a decade, Israel today again offered publicly to negotiate directly with the Arab states for settlement of all disputes.

The offer, which was unconditional, was promptly rejected by the Arabs. The proposal to negotiate was made in the General Assembly's Special Political Committee by Michael S. Comay deputy chairman of Israel's delegation. He had taken the floor to exercise his right of reply to the violent attack on Israel voiced yesterday before the Special Committee by Ahmed Shukairy, chairman of the Saudi Arabian delegation.

During a two-and-a-half hour session, Mr. Comay spoke for 45 minutes. Mr. Shukairy took an hour to reply to the Israeli response. Mr. Comay interrupted the Saudi Arabian speaker to defend the memory of the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann, first President of Israel. The chairman of the committee rebuked Mr. Shukairy.

Mr. Comay, in his address, pointed out that Mr. Shukairy was "obsessed" with "the proposition that Israel should be destroyed." The Israeli representative stressed that when Mr. Shukairy called for implementation of old United Nations resolutions dealing with repatriation of Arab refugees, the Arab spokesman wanted those resolutions "implemented against Israel." He showed that Mr. Shukairy had deliberately distorted old resolutions, quoted them out of context and cited only such parts of the resolutions as suited his purpose. The Israeli representative set the record straight before the committee. He then told the committee:

"We assume that the overwhelming majority of the governments represented at this table are sick and tired of the Israel-Arab conflict and would be only too happy if those directly concerned would settle it. We would repeat most solemnly that Israel seeks nothing from its neighbors but the chance to live in peace with them and, together with them, to strive for the common good of our troubled region.

"To promote this not-unworthy end, we repeat that we would be willing to meet with Arab representatives at any time and place, publicly or privately and without any prior conditions whatsoever. We cannot but ask ourselves whether the present atmosphere in the world, the present restrained hopefulness which prevails at the United Nations, may not perhaps hold out the prospect of some thaw in Israel-Arab relations as well."

MAPAI PLANS NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON CHANGE IN ISRAEL ELECTION SYSTEM

TEL AVIV, Nov. 12. (JTA) -- The new Knesset, Israel's Parliament, elected on November 3, will be convened on November 30, it was announced today as Mapai leaders pondered a national referendum on a change in Israel's proportional representation election system.

Agreement to such a referendum, it was understood, was being considered by the Mapai officials as a possible condition for partnership in the new coalition Government which will be headed again by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion. This would not require coalition partners in the Knesset for the electoral change but only for a referendum which would leave it to the electorate and not to the Knesset to decide.

The Central Elections Committee today published the official results of the election which gave Mapai 47 seats and the Mapai-backed Arab lists five seats for a total of 52 seats, nine short of an absolute majority of the 120 Knesset seats. The National Religious party won 12 seats, the Joint Agudah list six, the right-wing Herut 17, the left-wing Mapam nine, the leftist Achdut Avodah seven, the Progressives six, General Zionists eight and Communists three.

Final results in the Tel Aviv Municipality struggle gave Achdut Avodah a second seat, bringing the strength of the left-wing parties to 15. These included 11 for Mapai, two for Achdut Avodah and one each for Mapam and the Communists. The right-wing total was 14, made up of six General Zionists, five Herut, two Religious party, and one Agudah.

The Progressives, who won two seats, now hold the deciding votes in the election for Mayor since neither the right nor left-wing factions have achieved a majority in the Council. If the Progressives choose to demand the mayoralty as the price for supporting a municipal coalition, their candidate would be Chaim Mordechai Stern, general director of Rasso.

LATE POPE CHARGED WITH FAILING TO INTERVENE WITH NAZIS FOR ROME JEWS

ROME, Nov. 12, (JTA) -- The question whether the late Pope Pius XII did all he could to prevent the deportation of Italian Jews by the Nazis from Rome to annihilation camps has now been raised here publicly--16 years after the event--as a result of two books in which the Nazi brutalities against Jews in Rome are discussed.

The books have been published in France recently and are now distributed in Italy. One is "The Vatican Against Europe" by Edmond Paris, known as a liberal Protestant who has carried on a lengthy opposition to Catholicism in state education. The other is "The Vatican in World War II, by Paul Duclos, a French writer. Both authors discuss especially the mass deportation of October 16, 1943, when 2,000 Jews in Rome were taken out from their homes and sent to Nazi death camps. They quote official documents, which are considered here as being of great historical importance.

One of these documents is a letter written, on October 16, by the Austrian Bishop Luigi Hudal to General Stahel, German Military Commander of Rome. The letter stated: "In the interest of the peaceful relations between the Vatican and the German Military Command, I ask you to issue orders to stop immediately the arrest of Jews both in Rome and in the surroundings. The good reputation of Germany abroad requires it. Moreover, it is to be feared that the Pope might take an official stand against these arrests."

On the following day according to the texts published in the books, Gen. Stahel informed Msgr. Hudal that "I have informed the Gestapo and Himmler himself of your letter. He ordered that, in view of the special character of Rome, the arrests (of Jews) be suspended."

Eleven days later, however, the Nazi ambassador to the Vatican, von Weiszaecker, wrote to his superiors in Berlin--according to the published documents--that "the Pope, although pressed by all sides, did not allow himself to be dragged into any demonstration of disapproval of the deportation. He has done his utmost in this delicate issue in order not to compromise his relations with the German Government."

Jewish Community Organ Says Precious Lives Could Have Been Saved

The periodical Israel, official weekly publication of the Union of Hebrew Jewish Communities, commenting on the documents, said that as far as the Jews of Rome were concerned, "and remaining strictly within the limits of the tragic episode which struck the Jews of Rome, we must confess that the documentation" in the Duclos book "confirms what we already knew."

The periodical added that the documentation also confirmed "our conviction that the Vatican and Pius XII could have done much more for the salvation of the Jews and would certainly have obtained more if they had maintained the firm attitude which appears in the letter of Msgr. Hudal to Gen. Stahel."

Lauding Msgr. Hudal for his "generous intervention which succeeded in bringing to a stop the arrests for a short time," the periodical added that the Bishop's intervention demonstrated that "a firm attitude succeeded even in stopping Himmler," the head of the Gestapo. "If this firm attitude had been maintained, much more could have been obtained and precious lives could have been saved," the periodical stressed.

"We remain convinced that Pius XII did not do all that he could have done and we might humbly add all he should have done," the Jewish community organ continued. "From his High See, he should not have left without condemnation the horrors which were being committed under the walls of the Vatican." The periodical contended that the late Pope "had the duty to speak and condemn, to the advantage of his prestige and for the good of the Jews, the more so because it had been demonstrated that the Nazis were not indifferent to the authority and to the prestige of the Church."

Declaring that the Pope did not make use, "as he could have done, of his authority," the publication asserted that the late Pontiff had "placed political consideration above the immediate defense of Jews ferociously deported to the extermination camps and he believed that this position was compatible with his duties and with his universal mission."

The article added that "it must be made clear, however, that it is our desire to praise and express once more our warmest gratitude for what the Pope and members of the different religious orders at all levels did for the Jews. But for the sake of truth, we cannot refrain from saying that we are convinced that, even if much was done, not all that could and in our opinion should have been done, was in fact done."

Taking a directly opposite view, Osservatore Romano, organ of the Vatican, in a review of Mr. Paris' book declared that "on the issue of the Catholic Church and Jews, the book ignores or chooses to ignore the American documentation which contradicts the author" in saying that the Vatican did not intervene sufficiently in defense of the Jews.

The Vatican daily organ added that Mr. Paris also had ignored the proceedings at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials "where the action of the Pope in defense of Jews was quoted as an accusation against the defendants. We are not surprised that the ignorant and sectarian author deliberately did not ask himself why the Jews themselves have repeatedly expressed their gratitude for the attitude of the Holy See against racism."

C. J. F. W. F. ASSEMBLY DISCUSSES PROMOTION OF JEWISH CULTURE IN U. S.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 12. (JTA) -- Establishment of a National Jewish Cultural Foundation to serve as a focus of American cultural activities was recommended here today at the 28th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. The recommendation was contained in a summary of the national cultural study sponsored by the Council.

More than 1,000 Jewish leaders from over 100 cities throughout the United States and Canada are attending the four-day Assembly which opened today. Sidney Z. Vincent, study director, addressed the assemblage on the background and findings of the year-long study. Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee, presented the recommendations. Julian Freeman, of Indianapolis, past president of the Council and chairman of the Council Committee for the National Cultural Study, presided. Herbert R. Abeles of Newark, CJFWF president, opened the Assembly.

The Foundation would assist in interpreting the needs of individual agencies and the field as a whole to federations and welfare funds and to the entire community. It would assume responsibility for a system of scholarships and grants-in-aid "so crucial to the future well-being of the field." It could secure gifts from interested individuals and foundations and thereby provide the means for greatly expanding operations of various agencies and in the field generally. The survey stressed that adequate safeguards had been provided to preserve the autonomy and to "promote the creativity of the individual agencies and to assure them a continuing and vital role."

Dr. Shapiro, who was formerly national director of the Hillel Foundations, said the proposed Foundation would be composed of representatives of the 24 national Jewish cultural agencies involved in the study and would be invited to serve on a Council of Jewish Cultural Agencies, functioning as a central planning instrument for the field. The Council would be the arm of The Foundation for clearance and coordination among the agencies, and for pooling and exchange of ideas. The Foundation would undertake projects of a magnitude too great for individual agencies, would help fill unmet needs, establish priorities in scholarship and research, and stimulate activities in the field generally.

Prospects for Cultural Growth Considered Good; Gaps Enumerated

In presenting the findings of the study Mr. Vincent, who is assistant director of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, observed that the most hopeful aspect of the cultural study was the emerging optimism of a resurgence of Jewish cultural activities in America.

"We believe that the prospects of a dynamic cultural growth in America are vastly better than they were a generation ago," he said, "and that the most pressing immediate need is to forge a union between scholar and layman, between agency and community, to replace the false dichotomies that have grown up between them. Their joint insights and know-how can provide the basis for an American Jewish community of doers and thinkers--a community that will take its place with Babylonia and Spain and destroyed Europe as creative centers of Jewish life in the Diaspora."

However, Mr. Vincent said, there were serious gaps in the four areas surveyed; Jewish archives, publication resources, research and scholarship. Many important cultural treasures are in danger of being irretrievably lost through lack of funds, he said. Equally important, publications, research and studies are prevented from continuing for lack of funds or, if they continue, do so at the expense of the scholars who are paid, if at all, barely enough to exist. He complained of the lack of "risk capital" in publishing, so vital to the scholar.

"The valuation we have placed on the fields of scholarship and research has been so low and opportunities for careers have been so limited, that for all practical purposes we have had no organized profession of Jewish scholarship, such as has been created in the fields of the rabbinate and social work," he said.

Despite this, there have been encouraging signs, Mr. Vincent added. "There is unquestionably an awakened interest in archives and the beginnings of a determined effort to recapture the records of the past before they slip forever into oblivion," he said. "More Jewish books are being published in more fields than ever before and there has been an unmistakable difference in attitude towards the scholar."

The times are changing, Mr. Vincent declared. "We are entering into a period of vastly increased competition for brains. The natural sciences and the social sciences, the humanities and the arts will all more effectively seek to attract the best of our young people. There will be no standing still for Jewish culture in such a competitive atmosphere; we will either accept the challenge and vigorously increase the attractions for scholars to enter fields of Jewish interest or we will lose our young men at an increased rate to other, more attractive pursuits."

1,000 Jewish Social Work Positions Are Not Filled in U. S.

Addressing a General Assembly workshop, Mrs. Louis Oresman of New York reported that 1,000 Jewish social work positions were presently unfilled in the United States and added that "the shortage is real and immediate in virtually every community." She

said that only "a concerted effort to break the bottleneck will assure adequate staffs to provide high standards of service."

She reported that 31 Jewish communities were already subscribers to the CJFWF national scholarship plan which provides modest one-time grants from communities ranging from \$300 to \$750, according to the size of the community. The communities then draw on the fund on a matching principle: the community and the fund each provide half of the money for each scholarship, doubling available resources for training Jewish communal workers.

She said the grants average \$1,500 to \$2,000 annually and that CJFWF leaders expect the plan to provide between 40 and 50 scholarships. Recipients commit themselves to work for Jewish communal agencies after graduation.

Charles I. Schottland, dean of the Social Welfare School at Brandeis University, told the delegates that Jewish communities have "the obligation and the opportunity" to end the bottleneck. He said four approaches should be used: "improved training, increased scholarship opportunities, opening of new field work placements for schools and interpreting the need for the best quality students."

B'NAI B'RITH, JEWISH CONGRESS TAKE ISSUE WITH AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, Nov. 12. (JTA) -- Three prominent American Jewish leaders had taken sharp issue today with the American Jewish Committee over a statement made by Herbert B. Ehrmann, AJC president, criticizing the disclosure of the Eisenhower-Khrushchev talks on the Russian Jewish situation and taking credit for the President's action.

Philip S. Klutznick who, as chairman of the ad hoc committee of organizations, sought to establish an American Jewish representation to see the Soviet Premier during his visit here, told the board of governors of B'nai B'rith that the American Jewish Committee had "no monopoly of interest" in the plight of the Jews behind the Iron Curtain. He said it was "ridiculous" to withhold knowledge from the American Jewish community of Mr. Eisenhower's action, particularly when the White House had no objection. He said if the publication was a breach, it had not been helped by the AJC statement "which boasts that it sent someone to see the President."

In the course of his statement Mr. Klutznick disclosed that in the negotiations for a united representation, the AJC had made conditions for joining the ad hoc body, all of which "had been substantially met"; that, if an appointment had been obtained with Khrushchev, an AJC member would have been a member of the delegation; that AJC observers had approved the statement released by the ad hoc committee after the Khrushchev visit "although their organization declined to become a party to it when it was finally released."

Dr. Joachim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress, denounced the statement by Mr. Ehrmann as a "self-serving, intemperate attack." He said the American Jewish Committee deplored efforts to establish a united representation, championing, instead, "private intervention made by members of the American Jewish Committee and their friends." It was, he said, difficult to understand "why efforts of 21 organizations are called unwise while similar attempts by the American Jewish Committee are described as prudent."

Label Katz, president of B'nai B'rith, which was singled out, by implication, in the American Jewish Committee attack, commented that "it is a sad commentary when noble purposes are distorted and sincere motivations are questioned." He praised the American Jewish community for "the meaningful demonstration of unity shown by the ad hoc committee."

WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS TO TAKE PLACE IN JERUSALEM NEXT JULY

JERUSALEM, Nov. 12. (JTA) -- The next World Zionist Congress will take place in Jerusalem starting July 12, 1960, Dr. Nahum Goldmann told a press conference today at which he expressed opposition to any proposal to postpone the Congress.

Discussing problems of the next Zionist Actions Committee meeting, which opens here on December 28, Dr. Goldmann said the main goal was to work out plans for a new constitution for the World Zionist Organization.

Among major intended changes, he said, was abolition of the shekel as a factor determining the size of each country's representation at the Zionist Congress, although purchase of a shekel will remain the basis for the vote in each country to determine the division of votes among the Zionist parties.

Another major change indicated by Dr. Goldmann would permit entire Jewish organizations to join the World Zionist Organization as a unit, receiving a predetermined number of seats without the need to conduct a Zionist election within the organization. This arrangement would be for those organizations which do not want to become involved in Zionist party politics.

GERMAN POLICE ARREST TWO TOP NAZIS CHARGED WITH KILLING JEWS

FRANKFURT, Nov. 12. (JTA) -- German police today arrested two men accused of Nazi crimes who have eluded authorities since 1945. They are Dr. Werner Heyde, who killed 1,200 Jews by declaring them insane, and Robert Mohr, Gestapo chief in Darmstadt who was accused of murdering a Jewish judge.