Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE NEW YORK 16, N.Y

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXVI No. 220 - 41st year Monday, November 16, 1959

BRITISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES BIDS RUMANIA HALT MALTREATMENT OF JEWS

LONDON, Nov. 15. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews, in a unanimous resolution passed today, expressed its "shock" at the continued reports of mass arrests and harsh prison sentences passed on Rumanian Jews. Breaking its silence on this subject for the first time, the Board also called on the Rumanian authorities "to reverse this policy and take immediate steps to remove the grounds for the reprobation which their oppressive measures have aroused throughout the world."

The Board also expressed its regret that Rumania had suspended "the humane policy of allowing Jews to emigrate in order to rejoin their families in Israel."

Earlier, members of the central representative organization of British Jews had expressed their fears as to the fate lying in store for Rumania's Jewish community.

ISRAEL TELLS MOSCOW IT SUPPORTS GENERAL AND REGIONAL DISARMAMENT

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government made public today a reply it had transmitted to Moscow endorsing the appeal of the Supreme Soviet to all parliaments to assist in general disarmament.

The Foreign Ministry announced that the Israel note had been delivered to the Soviet Foreign Ministry last Friday. It pointed out that disarmament "is very close to the heart of the people and Government of Israel" and confirmed that the Supreme Soviet's message would be presented to the newly-elected fourth Knesset.

The Israeli note drew attention to recent statements by Premier David Ben-Gurion declaring that Israel desired Middle East disarmament, would be ready at any time for mutual inspection and would welcome Egyptians coming to Israel to see this disarmament carried out.

The note also quoted the statement made by Arthur Lourie, then head of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, on the Khrushchev disarmament proposals in which Israel's desire for regional disarmament arrangements in the Middle East was spelled out.

REPORT BEN-GURION AGREES TO OFFER FOREIGN MINISTRY TO SHARETT

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben-Gurion was reported today to have withdrawn his opposition to Moshe Sharett as Foreign Minister in the new government he is forming and Mapai Party leaders were said to be exerting considerable pressure on the former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister to secure his acceptance.

Mr. Sharett resigned the portfolio in a policy disagreement with Mr. Ben-Gurion after the Sinai campaign of 1956. The Premier was reported eager to have him back in the Cabinet in any post except the foreign ministry left vacant by the decision of Mrs. Golda Meir to step down.

Mr. Sharett, however, was understood to be continuing his refusal to accept the foreign ministry, holding that differences of opinion on fundamental policy between him and Mr. Ben-Gurion were so large as to preclude chances of smooth cooperation in the Cabinet.

Should both Mrs. Meir and Mr. Sharett remain adamant in their refusal of the post, it is generally expected that it will go to former Ambassador Abba S. Eban.

ISRAEL MUST BE READY FOR ANYTHING, MRS. MEIR TELLS U.J.A. MISSION

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15. (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Golda Meir told a 115-man visiting United Jewish Appeal delegation last night that while immigration was continuing at a steady pace and Israel was "fully engaged" in absorbing recent arrivals, "we must be prepared for whatever the future may hold." Mrs. Meir interrupted a vacation to return here to receive the American Jewish study mission at a dinner.

The Foreign Minister pointed out that although some countries severely restricted the departure of Jews, Israel had to be ready at all times for the day when the doors might be reopened. She declared that "the tasks ahead of us are vital to the Jewish people as ever. Their fulfillment is unthinkable without the continued devotion and cooperation of American Jewry."

Earlier, the mission studied agricultural developments and inspected new settlements in the Lachish area. The delegation was told by Dr. Raanan Weitz, head of the Jewish Agency agricultural and settlement department, that only 60 out of 482 immigrant farm settlements were self-supporting and that $200,000,000 would be required to put the remainder on an equal footing. Dr. Weitz explained to the delegation that Israel, which had increased agricultural production since statehood by 315 percent, was now concentrating on increasing industrial crops such as cotton, peanuts and sugar beet.

Among the settlements the delegation visited was Moshav Lachish-Otzem, a frontier outpost inhabited by Moroccan Jewish settlers who are growing cotton. They also visited Kiryat Gat, urban center of the Lachish area.

A permanent "Conquest of the Desert" exhibit was opened today by Meir Grossman, member of the Jewish Agency executive, in the presence of the members of the study group. The exhibit shows Israel's achievements in land reclamation, development of natural resources, agriculture, industry, housing, settlement, education and culture.

U.A.R. SPOKESMAN TELLS UNITED NATIONS TO DEAL WITH ISRAEL IMMIGRATION

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 15. (JTA) -- Hassan Gohar, representative of the United Arab Republic, told the General Assembly Special Political Committee this weekend that time had only strengthened the determination of the Arab refugees to uphold their right to repatriation--which he offered as the "only solution" to the problem. Gohar was the final speaker before the week-end adjournment of the committee which will resume discussion of the Arab refugees tomorrow morning.

Charging that Israel from the beginning had "resisted" any attempt at repatriation, Gohar accused Israel of inviting "alien Jews to create a de facto situation" which might render repatriation impossible. Jewish immigration, he argued, constituted the "main obstacle" to repatriation, and should, therefore, be the concern of the United Nations.

REFORM LEADER DENOUNCES ORTHODOX HOLD ON ISRAELI RELIGIOUS LIFE

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Nov. 15. (JTA) -- Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, charged tonight that a "sterile Orthodoxy" had a stranglehold on religious life in Israel and had established a virtual ban on Liberal expressions of Judaism.

Addressing the opening session of the organization's 45th biennial general assembly, the speaker advised Premier David Ben-Gurion that without "the life-giving waters of our Reform faith," there was "more danger of Judaism perishing in his land than in ours." He referred to the acceptance of American equipment and technicians and rejection of "rabbis made in Cincinnati and New York" as "a disdainful and false emphasis on the alleged exclusive materialism of America as well as a reflection of the equally mundane stress in Israel."

He urged the 3,000 delegates and guests at the assembly to protest allocation of funds and facilities to "but one religious group in Israel" and to insist that facilities be made "equitably available to all Jewish religious bodies within Israel."

Rabbi Eisendrath said American Reform Judaism must meet the religious demands of an area beset by "spiritual thirst" and called on the assembly to "mobilize against the pagan idols" of what he termed our "rocket and racket-ridden age." He said the essence of Reform Judaism was to "cease to do evil, learn to do good, rather than a preoccupation with the ceremonial "peccadilloes pertaining to pots and pans and dishes and diets and hats on or hats off."

PARLEY TOLD DESIRE FOR JUDAISM, NOT STATUS, SPARKS SYNAGOGUE TREND

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Nov. 15. (JTA) -- The great number of Jews affiliating with synagogues today are not doing so because of "status-seeking" as some social scientists claim, but because they have a "genuine desire to come closer to Judaism," Dr. Bernard Segal, executive director of the United Synagogue of America, affirmed tonight in his address opening the biennial convention of the organization. Twelve hundred delegates, representing 685 congregations in 260 cities are attending the five-day parley.

The Conservative leader noted that some described the current return to religion as a response to a need for "status" or "group identification" and others attributed it to the Jewish population shift to the suburbs. If the individuals really were seeking status, Dr. Segal said, other institutions were better equipped to offer it to them. Synagogue construction, he said, could not keep pace with demand but non-synagogue institutions "are offering the commodities of Jewish identification at lower prices and lower personal commitments."

Rabbi Segal also said that in scores of communities across the continent, "the Conservative synagogue is the spearhead of a maximum program of Jewish education." In Philadelphia, he said, of 27,000 children enrolled in Jewish schools, 15,000 were attending schools under Conservative auspices.

C. J. F. W. F. VOTES TO ESTABLISH CULTURAL FOUNDATION, COUNCIL OF AGENCIES

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 15. (JTA) -- Measures to establish a national Jewish cultural foundation and a council of Jewish cultural agencies were taken here today at the concluding session of the 28th general assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

The four-day parley, which studied local, national and overseas problems affecting the Jewish community adopted a series of resolutions defining its position on these issues. Irving Kane of Cleveland was elected sixth president of the Council succeeding Herbert R. Abeles.

On domestic questions, the assembly voted reaffirmation of the principle of indivisibility of equal rights, lauded efforts during the past year to strengthen civil rights and called on Jewish community relations agencies and other groups "to help secure the fact as well as the principle" of equal justice and equal opportunity for all.

On the international scene, the assembly expressed concern over the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union "denied access to those facilities essential to the exercise of their rights as Jews." It expressed hope that today's more cordial international atmosphere would be reflected in fulfillment of guarantees in the Soviet constitution of religious equality. The resolution also urged the Soviet Union to permit Jewish residents to be reunited with their families living in other lands as a "humanitarian act."

A two-part resolution on immigration endorsed World Refugee Year and called for a major effort to convince Congress to abolish the national origins quota system. It urged Congress to liberalize the basic immigration laws.

Resolution Asks Continued Economic Support for Israel

The delegates applauded United States economic aid to Israel and the Middle East and urged its continuance "to strengthen democratic institutions in that strategic and vital area, the stability of the region and the peace of the world." They called for greater emphasis in spurring private investment in Israel, as "the basic underpinning of Israel's movement towards self-support" and stressed the urgency for such a program since Israel faces the maturing of bond issues and the termination of German reparations.

To meet the "massive and varied human needs--local, national and overseas"--the delegates urged the communities to take every possible step to organize their 1960 campaigns at the "earliest feasible time" to assure maximum fund-raising. National and local services also require added support and overseas needs will call for the fullest assistance for years to come. Under the pressures of local, national and overseas Jewish needs, the resolution urged "a deliberate and intensive budget process to assess carefully the relative urgency of requirements."

A series of resolutions dealing with communal problems and developments was also adopted by the assembly. They covered such problems as recruitment of young men and women for communal service, programs of non-institutional care for the aged, Jewish education and community relations work.

Earlier, in a session devoted to overseas needs and basic planning, Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman told the assembly that Israel faced two tasks: re-building a poor, ravaged country and transforming a refugee population into a rooted citizenry. He expressed the hope that "the turbulent period" in Israel's brief history was finished and declared that Israel was set for "rapid progress to achieve an economic balance and a living standard to support a flourishing human civilization." He appealed for "an additional spurt forward" among American Jewry "to complete this noble humanitarian undertaking."

William Rosenwald of New York, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, said that 1960 "presents the United Jewish Appeal with a drama as intense and urgent as an armed conflict." He asserted that it offered a greater opportunity to be more constructive than any recent years and said that "if we make the most of these opportunities we shall provide hope for those who need rescue now, discharge our responsibility for those already rescued and clear the road for those yet to come to Israel and other free lands."

He said that World Refugee Year was an opportune occasion for "long overdue" passage of a law by Congress to abolish the national quota system in federal immigration laws. He added that "this must be the time when we tell the exclusionists that at a minimum we must have legislation permitting the entry of 20,000 persons regardless of quotas. World Refugee Year represents a magnificent opportunity to educate our people and Congress toward a system of immigration selection based on humanitarian principles and national needs."

Joseph Willen of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York told the dele- that the growing democratization of American life was reflected in the changing ele and administration of health and welfare agencies.

REMEMBER TWELVE MILLION VICTIMS OF NAZISM, ITALIAN LEADER PLEADS

TURIN, Nov. 15. (JTA) -- Senator Piero Caleffi, president of the Association of Italian Political Concentration Camp Inmates, warned the second national congress of the organization here today that "if we wish to remain free human beings, we must forget the 12,000,000 exterminated people" of the Nazi regime.

He said that 40,000 Italians had been deported to Germany for racial or political reasons, of whom only 3,000 had returned. Many of those who returned, he said, succumbed later to the effects of torture and hunger.

Among the chief problems facing the survivors of Nazi brutality, he declared, are medical, social and financial assistance and the obtaining of state pensions for the victims and their families.

Delegates to the congress, including representatives of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, made a pilgrimage to the memorial to the Unknown Deportee and to the monument to the Jewish martyrs. An exhibition was opened in conjunction with the congress highlighting the martyrdom of the victims of Nazism. It was composed of hundreds of photographs and objects such as lampshades made of human skin.

WESTPHALIAN YOUNGSTERS RENOVATE DESECRATED JEWISH CEMETERIES

DUSSELDORF, Nov. 15. (JTA) -- Local groups of German young people in three towns have acted on their own for the restoration of desecrated Jewish cemeteries, it was disclosed here today.

More than 100 boys and girls renovated the cemetery in Rheda which was vandalized last August. When the youths announced their intention "to make good for the disgrace," the Rheda town council provided tools and financial help.

In Borghorst, another Westphalian town, youth groups announced they would care for the local Jewish cemetery "as a token for the guilt of the past times." In Dinslaken, where the cemetery also had been desecrated, a group of youths aged 15 to 17 spent their leisure hours cleaning up paths in the cemetery and replacing tombstones.

DETROIT CENTER TO BE CLOSED UNTIL SABBATH ISSUE IS DECIDED

DETROIT, Nov. 15. (JTA) -- The new Jewish Community Center here will remain closed on Saturdays pending a complete study of the question of Sabbath operation by a special citizens' committee, its board of directors has ruled.

The decision followed a wave of protest against an earlier decision to open the Center's facilities on Saturdays. The Saturday opening was deferred while the board reviewed the issue. The board took cognizance of the protests which came from many directions and decided to leave the question to a committee of outstanding Detroit citizens.

OLDEST PHILADELPHIA CONGREGATION ELECTS FIRST WOMAN BOARD MEMBER

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 15. (JTA) -- Mikveh Israel, the second oldest synagogue in the United States amd the oldest in this city, has broken a tradition going back more than two centuries by electing a woman to the board of managers, it was disclosed today. She is Dr. Lillian S. Alpers, chief of the arthritic clinic at the Women's Medical College, where she also lectures on marriage counselling.

Last April, the 219-year-old Orthodox Spanish-Portuguese congregation amended its constitution to eliminate a long-standing clause that only males were eligible to become members of the board of managers. The action, taken for the first time in the election of Dr. Alpers, also made women eligible as officers of the congregation. David Arons, president of the synagogue, said the election of a woman to the board would not alter the orthodox custom of permitting only men to conduct services.

Dr. Alpers' husband, Dr. Bernard Alpers, head of the Neurology Department at Jefferson Medical College, is vice president of Mikveh Israel.

HISTORIC LEXINGTON CHURCHES AID NEW JEWISH CONGREGATION

BOSTON, Nov. 15. (JTA) -- Two famed old churches have come to the aid of the newest Jewish Reform temple in New England, extending the use of facilities until the new congregation has its own home.

The two churches are in the historic town of Lexington. The First Parish Church, a Unitarian institution founded in 1691, gave its building to Temple Isaiah for holding services. The Hancock Congregation Church has put its classrooms at the disposal of the Jewish congregation for its religious school and has made its hall available for regular Sabbath services.

CONFERENCE ON ART IN ISRAEL TO OPEN AT HERZL INSTITUTE

NEW YORK, Nov. 15. (JTA) -- A conference on art in Israel during the past decade exploring the development of contemporary Israeli art, the influence on it of the folk art brought to the country by immigrants from 75 countries and the place of Israeli art in the framework of Jewish contemporary art throughout the world will open at the Theodor Herzl Institute on November 21 and continue for one week.