



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXVI No. 245 - 41st year Tuesday, December 22, 1959

GREEK SHIP WITH ISRAELI CARGO SEIZED BY EGYPT DESPITE U.N. ARRANGEMENT

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21, (JTA) -- Israeli sources today indicated here that the Egyptian Government had advance knowledge of the shipment of the Israel cement on the Greek freighter Astypalea through the Suez Canal, and that the arrangement was made under conditions suggested by the United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold. Nevertheless, the Cairo authorities detained the ship when she reached Port Said, en route to Djibuti. (See later developments on page 2.)

The Israel Government is now maintaining a wait-and-see attitude on the incident, pending reaction from the United Nations, United States and other powers. (At the United Nations headquarters in New York silence was maintained by officials on the seizure of the Greek ship. It was understood that the UN Secretariat had been informed in advance before the Greek freighter left Haifa with its cargo of cement which was paid for by the Djibuti consignees. Also that UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold has protested to Egypt against the seizure of the vessel. Dr. Ralph Bunche, UN Undersecretary for Special Political Affairs, will be in Cairo on January 9, it was announced.)

WORLD BANK IN WASHINGTON VOTES TO GRANT LOAN TO NASSER FOR SUEZ

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, (JTA) -- The World Bank board of governors today agreed to grant the controversial loan to the United Arab Republic to expand the Suez Canal despite anti-Israeli canal restrictions, well-informed sources revealed here.

It was reported that the bank approved the loan in a meeting this afternoon but would make no official announcement until the instrument is actually signed, possibly later this week. A spokesman for the bank would say only that the board "considered the matter."

Sixty-six members of the House joined in a last-minute appeal in what appeared to be a fruitless attempt to delay action by the bank. The Congressmen petitioned bank president Eugene Black and C. Douglas Dillon, Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs. They asked that the bank refrain from action on the loan pending a commitment from Nasser to grant free transit. The newest issue involving enforcement of the Suez blockade was cited.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee issued a statement by its chairman Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein declaring: "The free world threw away another opportunity to end the illegal blockade of the Suez Canal today when the World Bank approved a large loan to the United Arab Republic to improve the canal without securing a commitment from the UAR to keep the waterway open to the shipping of all nations. Our own government is the largest stockholder in the bank and its acquiescence in the loan cannot be squared with the promise made by President Eisenhower in 1957 and with the UN Security Council resolution of September 1, 1951 which branded the blockade as a violation of the UN armistice agreement.

"At the time President Eisenhower made that 1957 statement, many critics of our foreign policy were charging that the Administration was guilty of a double moral standard, and that it was bringing pressures on Israel to withdraw her forces while ignoring the Arab aggressions against Israel. The Administration has insisted that it still favors the free and unrestricted use of the Suez Canal by the shipping of all nations but the granting of the loan today is renewed evidence of a one-sided policy which closes its eyes to the Arab boycott, blockade and aggression against Israel and therefore defeats progress toward peace," Rabbi Bernstein stressed.

U.N. BODY REPORTS ON RENEWED TENSION ALONG ISRAEL-SYRIAN BORDER

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21, (JTA) -- The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization dispatched today an extensive report to UN headquarters in New York on its investigation of renewed tension along the Israeli-Syrian border.

Renewed interference with Israeli fishermen on the Sea of Galilee by Syrian forces recently prompted Israel to make a strong complaint to the UN agency and to demand measures to halt border violations.

The report was said to cover the investigation by the UN team of Israeli complaints of firing on fishermen, on the sabotaging and theft of fishing nets in the sea and the planting of mines on Israeli territory.

HAMMARSKJOLD SEEKS TO PERSUADE EGYPT TO RELEASE THE GREEK FREIGHTER

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold is personally in contact with the United Arab Republic Government in Cairo by telephone in an effort to persuade Egypt to release the Greek freighter Astypalea with the ship's Israel-originated cargo, it was learned here this afternoon.

Mr. Hammarskjold, who telephoned UAR Foreign Minister Mahmud Fawzi from United Nations headquarters before departing for a five-week tour last Friday, talked with Dr. Fawzi again on Saturday and again yesterday.

Dr. Fawzi had returned to Cairo Thursday, the day before the Astypalea was halted by Egyptian authorities at Port Said as the vessel attempted to pass through the Suez Canal. Dr. Fawzi had been in Denmark where he negotiated with the Danish Government the problem of the Danish freighter Inge Toft which has been berthed at a Port Said dock since May 21. The Inge Toft contains an Israeli cargo which the ship's captain refuses to unload because the UAR announced it would confiscate the cargo.

Here at UN headquarters, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Undersecretary for Special Political Affairs, has been briefed on the Astypalea case by trans-Atlantic telephone immediately after each of Mr. Hammarskjold's conversations with Dr. Fawzi. Dr. Bunche, in turn, has been in constant communication on the issue with the Israel delegation.

ISRAEL BUDGET FOR 1960 WILL TOTAL \$852,000,000; SAME AS IN 1959

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Israel's next budget, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1960, is expected to total 1,550,000,000 pounds (\$852,500,000), the same as this year, according to advance reports confirmed here today by the Treasury Department.

If the budget stays at the present level, it will be the first time since Israel's establishment that there will be no increase, as has been the practice every year until now.

It is the government's policy to keep the budget down as part of the effort to stabilize the country's economy. However, pegging the budget at this year's level is expected to require considerable reduction of plans for the construction of low-cost housing as replacements for the "maabaret" or transit camps. The new budget will also eliminate transport subsidies as well as milk and other farm subsidies.

Next year's budget will include, however, a 15 percent increase for the Ministry of Education, as well as a rise of 100,000,000 pounds (\$55,000,000) in government subsidies for exports.

WORK ON JORDAN RIVER WATER PROJECT PROCEEDING, OFFICIAL REPORTS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Work on the controversial Jordan River water project is proceeding according to schedule and it is hoped to complete the entire project within four years. Y. Duvdevani, director of the Mekorot Water Company, said today in a press interview.

The project, designed to pipe water from the Jordan River at a point in northern Israel, to be used in irrigating arid stretches of the southern desert, has come under heavy attack in recent weeks from the Arab States. Israel began the project after the Arab States had rejected the Johnston Plan which would have provided for allocation of the Jordan water among Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Israel and for extensive development of the river's flow.

Work on the 108-inch pipeline was recently suspended because of the winter, Mr. Duvdevani said, but will be resumed as early in the spring as possible. Meanwhile, he said, work was continuing on essential sub-projects, such as the Taghba hydro-electric plant and the open conduit in the Upper Galilee through which the Jordan water would move southward by gravity.

The work on the difficult Menashe Tunnel is continuing at a steady pace, he noted. Here a tunnel has to be driven through the base of a mountain for the water pipeline. The tunnelling from the north has already penetrated 2.7 kilometers, he said, and the digging from the south, 1.7 kilometers.

\$11,000,000 IN ISRAEL BONDS SOLD IN NEW YORK IN 1959, CHAIRMAN REPORTS

NEW YORK, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- A capacity audience of 20,000 persons gathered to salute modern Israel tonight at the ninth annual Chanukah Festival for Israel which brought to a climax the 1959 Greater New York campaign of the State of Israel Bonds in Madison Square Garden.

As a result of the city-wide drive and the Chanukah festival, New Yorkers will have purchased more than \$11,000,000 by the end of the year, it was announced by Ira Guilden, general chairman of the Israel bond campaign in New York. This will bring to more than \$100,000,000 the total amount of Israel bonds sold in New York since the inception of the drive in 1951.

Israel Ambassador Harman, addressing the audience, emphasized that Israel bond investment capital was playing a major role in the economic development of the Jewish State. He praised the American people for their support of Israel during the critical years of its existence. Dr. Israel Goldstein, chairman of the Chanukah Festival Committee, spoke in a similar vein.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS GETS MORE DATA ON JEWS GASED BY NAZIS

LONDON, Dec. 21, (JTA) -- An International Tracing Service team has completed the microfilming of documents at the Auschwitz State Museum and has added data on 200,000 victims of the Nazi regime to the files of the ITS at Arolsen, Germany, the International Red Cross Committee, which operates the tracing service, disclosed today.

The documents at Auschwitz include lists of names of the Jews transported to and from the Nazi death centers at Mathausen, Dachau, Buchenwald and other concentration camps. During the last three months, it was announced, the ITS received more than 31,000 inquiries and sent out more than 36,000 reports and certificates pertaining to individual cases.

GERMAN ANTI-SEMITES GETS FOUR MONTHS IN JAIL FOR ANTI-JEWISH REMARKS

MUNICH, Dec. 21, (JTA) -- A 47-year-old sales manager, Alfred Schmolke, has been sentenced by a jury court in Kassel to a four-month jail term for making anti-Semitic remarks. He was convicted of declaring publicly that "not enough Jew-pigs have been killed and now they are again taking over in the banks and in the economy."

A 52-year-old druggist, Victor Capesius, has been arrested in Goeppingen, and is now being held in jail here on charges of complicity in the murder of Jewish and political prisoners at the Auschwitz death camp, Dr. A. Wulf, Chief State Attorney, said today.

Capesius was arrested in the large-scale investigations now being conducted by Dr. Wulf's office of a group of former Auschwitz guards, including Oswald Kaduk, Wilhelm Bogler, Franz Hoffman, and Wolfgang Kuegler, a former SS guard, who committed suicide two weeks ago by jumping from a second story window in the Frankfurt prison.

A former Hitlerite SS camp guard, who commanded a labor unit in the Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg concentration camp during the war, goes on trial here January 18, charged with crimes which the prosecutor, who announced the trial schedule today, calls "unspeakable." The man is Richard Bugdale. According to the indictment, he murdered 26 camp prisoners "out of the sheer lust to murder."

BAVARIAN TRADE UNIONS DEMAND REMOVAL OF EX-NAZIS FROM COURT SYSTEM

BONN, Dec. 21, (JTA) -- The 900,000-member Trade Union Movement of Bavaria today demanded the speedy removal from the West German judicial structure of those who "actively participated in judicial crimes and persecution during the Third Reich." A resolution to this effect was adopted unanimously at a conference in Munich.

Pension restrictions on members of some SS volunteer units who committed crimes against humanity are not unconstitutional, the Federal Social Court ruled here today.

The court rejected contentions of ex-SS claimants that the restrictive provisions, which exclude them from some pension benefits, violated the principle of equality. The court also rejected the argument that because of a change in legal interpretations, "prejudice against members of the SS could no longer be upheld."

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN YUGOSLAVIA CELEBRATE FEDERATION ANNIVERSARY

LONDON, Dec. 21, (JTA) -- The 40th anniversary of the founding of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Yugoslavia will be celebrated at a series of events scheduled for this week, according to an official announcement from the Federation's headquarters in Belgrade, received here today.

The Federation, which is the official, government-recognized central body of Yugoslav Jewry, includes representatives of the 35 Jewish communities in Yugoslavia, where the Jews now total about 6,500. When the Federation was formed, in 1919, there were 68,000 Jews in Yugoslavia, where they formed 121 communities. By the time World War II enveloped the country, there were about 100,000 Jews in Yugoslavia. Approximately 10,000 left after the war for Israel; the rest were annihilated in Nazi camps.

Among the events to mark the Federation's anniversary will be a national conference of all the Jewish communities in Yugoslavia; the dedication of a new wing of the Jewish Museum in Belgrade; and solemn ceremonies commemorating the Jewish martyrs at the Monument of Jewish Victims of Fascism and Fallen Fighters.

A statement issued by the Federation in Belgrade today stressed the fact that "the remaining members of the Jewish community have benefited from the sympathies of the Yugoslav authorities and public." The statement also stressed the fact that Yugoslav Jewry "enjoys free contacts with many Jewish organizations and individuals, including also many representatives of the Jewish press, throughout the world."

STUDENTS OF GERMAN UNIVERSITY CONTRIBUTE \$1,250 FOR SYNAGOGUE

MUENSTER, Germany, Dec. 21, (JTA) -- The Muenster University student choir has given the Jewish community here 5,000 Deutschmarks (\$1,250) for the rebuilding of a synagogue destroyed by the Nazis in 1938, it was announced today.

MIZRACHI RESENTS STATEMENT OF ORTHODOX UNION ON 'PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE'

NEW YORK, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Resentment over the statement issued by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations against the "regularization" of the Conference of Presidents of major American Jewish organizations was expressed today by Rabbi Mordecai Kirschblum on behalf of the Mizrahi movement of religious Zionists in this country. The Mizrahi leader resented especially the attack against Zionism contained in the UOJC statement.

Pointing out that he has been representing religious Jewry on the Presidents' Conference since its very inception, Rabbi Kirschblum said that the statement of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations "does not speak for the overwhelming majority of orthodox Jews" in this country.

"I resent categorically the statement of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations in its unwarranted sniping at Zionists and Zionism, as if they were a dangerous segment in Jewry of which Jewish organizations are to beware," Rabbi Kirschblum continued. "This I consider also an attack on the Mizrahi movement, a great and dynamic force, which has built much of our Torah cultural life in this country and who are definitely to be credited with countless religious institutions, nay, a complete religious civilization, in the State of Israel. We reject with deep-rooted and justified fury any such slurs on the great and good name of Zionism of which we have been a part, and in which we always saw the hand of the Lord leading our people back to its national origins."

CHANUKAH CELEBRATIONS TO BE HELD AT U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

NEW YORK, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Thousands of Jewish military personnel on duty at United States missile, rocket, jet and airwarning stations in this country and at military installations throughout the world will join their fellow Jews around the globe in the celebration of Chanukah, which begins at sundown on December 25.

The candlelighting services and the other colorful programs at the missile areas are typical of the world-wide Chanukah programs to be conducted by Jewish chaplains and the 273 local Armed Services Committees and USO-JWB field staff under the auspices of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

Hundreds of Chanukah packages for the overseas Chanukah programs have been shipped by women, affiliated with JWB Women's Organization. Packages included foods, menorahs, candles, books and religious items.

J.N.F. DISTRIBUTING CHRISTMAS TREES TO CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund began distribution today of Christmas trees to Christian institutions and individuals.

The Jerusalem Tree Nursery, in cooperation with the Christian Department of Israel's Ministry of Religions, also will provide trees for Christian diplomats and foreign experts on duty in Israel.

SO. AFRICAN JEWS TRANSFER ALL ASSETS IN ASHKELON TO ISRAEL GOVERNMENT

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- All assets in Ashkelon held by a group of South African Jews, were handed over to the Israel Government yesterday at a special ceremony attended by Foreign Minister Golda Meir and other Government officials, hundreds of South African tourists and thousands of citizens of the southern coastal city built by South African Jews.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mrs. Meir suggested that, after the phenomenal success of the Ashkelon project, the Jews of South Africa should envisage another project similar to Ashkelon but much further south in the Negev. She paid tribute to the South African Government which released funds and goods necessary to build Ashkelon. Israel's relations with South Africa had always been excellent, Mrs. Meir added. The Foreign Minister noted that Ashkelon represented a marvelous example of unity between Israel and the Diaspora.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. ZAMENHOF OBSERVED BY ESPERANTISTS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- The 100th anniversary of Dr. Ludwig L. Zamenhof, originator of Esperanto, was observed at a special commemorative meeting held this week-end at Freedom House here, attended by about 200 Esperantists.

Dr. Zamenhof, who published his first textbook on Esperanto in 1887, was a Jew, born in Bialystok, in 1859. Among the speakers at the commemorative session were Dr. Mario Pei, professor of Romance philology at Columbia University; and Claude Piro, a translator employed by the United Nations.

MEXICAN MEDICAL ACADEMY AWARDS ITS ANNUAL PRIZE TO JEWISH DOCTOR

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Dr. Teodoro Cesarman, a Jewish heart specialist here, was today awarded the annual prize of the Mexican Medical Academy for his research and techniques developed in the treatment of heart disease. Well-known in Mexican Jewish circles, Dr. Cesarman has treated high government officials including ex-President Adolfo Ruiz Cortines.