



# Jewish Telegraphic Agency DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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## PRESIDENT EISENHOWER, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CONDEMN ANTI-SEMITIC ACTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in a forthright condemnation of the current anti-Semitic swastika epidemic, warned tonight that the "fire of bigotry" cannot be ignored, "nor can we allow it to spread one inch."

The President's message was telephoned today from the White House to Dr. Joachim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress, to be read by him at tonight's emergency meeting of the AJC to discuss the worldwide outbreak of anti-Semitism.

Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller and Catholic and Protestant dignitaries were among those who joined in person or by message in condemning the spread of bigotry. Some 500 Congress leaders heard the statements which included denunciation of the recent outbreaks by Richard Cardinal Cushing, of Boston; the Rt. Rev. James A. Pike, Episcopal Bishop of California; the Most Rev. Philip J. Furlong, Auxiliary Catholic Bishop of New York, and the Rt. Rev. W.B. Donegan, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of New York.

"We deeply regret that the fire of bigotry seems to be ever present in the body politic," President Eisenhower declared. "We cannot ignore it, nor can we allow it to spread one inch. For, when it becomes rampant, it may cause destruction to freedom and decency everywhere."

"In this age when so much is expected and required from America, we can ill afford to waste a single day combating bigotry or prejudice at home. United in a common purpose in free and responsible teamwork of all races, of all faiths and all nationalities, we will continue seeking to advance the general welfare of all our people and our neighbors abroad."

### Governor Calls Synagogue Vandalism 'Shocking'

Governor Rockefeller declared that "the recent outbreak of vandalism on synagogues and churches is shocking. Every thinking person is indignant at these shameful acts. But it is not enough to deplore these acts. Rather it is incumbent upon all people of good will positively to strive to insure that America is the land of freedom and opportunity for all men."

Dr. Prinz warned against dismissing the global epidemic of anti-Jewish vandalism as a mere "fad like the hula-hoop or rock 'n roll." He declared that "the cry of 'Death to the Jews,' embodied in the swastika, is a dangerous lyric for a rock 'n roll number."

Bishop Donegan told the assembly that "it is a revolting and ugly fact that, in this day and age, there should be in the world fresh outbreaks of animosity against the Jewish people and their religion. Any person who is anti-Jewish in his acts or feelings is at the same time anti-Christian."

Bishop Furlong, citing a statement by the late Pope Pius XII against "hatred and folly of persecution," added: "There must be a consciousness that each one is his brother's keeper. The brotherhood of man is so basic that civilization will perish without it."

The AJC meeting adopted a resolution calling for a five-point program to halt anti-Semitism and strengthen democracy in Germany. The resolution urged "vigorous action" also in other countries where anti-Semitic incidents have taken place, exhorting "all forces of society" to see to it that these outbreaks do not occur again.

### Legislation Proposed in Albany, State Report Demanded

In Albany today, Assemblyman Alfred D. Lerner introduced a bill in the State Legislature which would make the defaming or defacing of a house of worship a felony. Under the present law, perpetrators of such acts of vandalism are charged with malicious mischief, a misdemeanor.

The New York City legislator said that most of the young hoodlums who have been apprehended insist they were simply playing a prank. "I'm afraid I can't go along with this way of thinking," Assemblyman Lerner said. "To me the painting of swastikas and other Nazi symbols of hate on religious buildings is a criminal act of destruction and should be dealt with accordingly."

Other legislative leaders in Albany sponsored a resolution calling for a report on whether the state's laws can cope with anti-religious vandalism. The resolution, sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Mahoney and Assembly Speaker Carlino, stated:

"The Legislature is increasingly concerned with recent widespread acts of desecration and defacement of, or vandalism in connection with, synagogues, churches or buildings used for or in connection with religious worship."

#### New England Methodists to Show Solidarity with Jews

In Boston, Bishop John Wesley Lord, of the Methodist District of New England, asked the District's 12 local officials to invite rabbis to occupy Methodist Church pulpits on Sunday, January 31, "to show the high regard the Methodist Church has for adherents of the Jewish faith."

Leading Catholic and Dutch Reform clergymen in South Africa today denounced the swastika-daubings and anti-Semitic sloganeering in their country and abroad. At Stockholm, a call for "vaccination of our children" against racial prejudice was issued by Prof. Torgny Segerstedt, rector of Upsala University.

At Brussels, Belgian Minister of Justice Merchies promised publicly that those responsible for recent anti-Semitic incidents will be "severely punished when caught." Statements of sympathy for the Belgian Jewish community and calls for anti-racist action were issued by the national committee of the Social Christian Party and by leaders of the Catholic Youth movement.

In Washington, Rep. Cornelius E. Gallagher of New Jersey, proposed that the United Nations probe anti-Semitism in Western Europe. He said the UN "should determine whether desecration of synagogues is evidence of a smoldering neo-fascism, or part of a Red conspiracy to split the Western allies."

At the United Nations today, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities discussed a study of discrimination in religious rights and practices prepared by Dr. Arcot Krishnaswami, of India. It asserted, among other points, that discrimination in religious rights and practices is now "a diminishing phenomenon."

Dr. Gary Maceoin, representing the International Catholic Press Union, took vigorous exception to many of Dr. Krishnaswami's assertions. He asserted that the reported "rarity" of religious discriminations does not exist, and commented: "Unfortunately, the truth is very different," referring to "unhappy lands where the rights of man are ignored, and falsehood is adopted as a system." He recalled yesterday's debate concerning anti-Semitism and said "we respectfully suggest that a situation which has passed from the realm of threat to the realm of actual persecution is no less urgently a concern of the subcommission."

Some political observers at the United Nations objected today to interpretations of the British and French position in the subcommission's discussions yesterday on the move to give priority to an agenda item dealing with racist incitement. These observers held that the British and French were only arguing the procedures for handling the problem, but were actually "substantively" in favor of debating the recent outbreaks of anti-Semitism.

#### ADENAUER GOVERNMENT TO PRESS FOR NEW LAW IN FACE OF OPPOSITION

BONN, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- In spite of opposition to proposed new laws by the Social Democratic Party and by leaders of German Jewry, Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's government proceeded today with plans to introduce such legislation on the grounds that the government needed further bolstering of its powers to deal with the recent outbreaks of anti-Semitism.

The government plans to renew debate in the Lower House of Parliament, the Bundestag, on an earlier bill which provides stiff penalties for persons convicted of slandering religious, racial and national groups. The bill had passed in the Bundesrat, the Upper House, last month.

A statement on the recent outbreaks will be made formally on behalf of the Government when the Bundestag convenes, January 20, it was announced today. A Federal Ministry of the Interior spokesman told the JTA that 114 cases of swastika and anti-Jewish slogan daubings had been recorded in West Germany since Christmas Eve, and that 30 arrests had been made of suspects, most of them under 25 years of age.

Dr. Hendrick Van Dam, secretary of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, again stated the Jewish opposition. He said the Central Council favored only changes in existing libel laws which would make possible the prosecution of anti-Semitic incidents. He added that, while combating attacks on freedom and dignity was the duty of the State, the forces of democracy "also must take the initiative and help themselves."

The German Jewish leader indicated tonight that he did not see eye-to-eye with the World Jewish Congress on proposals for dealing with the German situation submitted to the German Government last week by Alec Easterman, the WJC political director for Europe.

# U.S.S. R. OFFICIAL SAYS SOVIET UNION HAS ONLY 500,000 'PRACTICING JEWS'

ROME, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- A member of the Soviet Government's five-man "Committee for Religious Cults"--the highest governmental authority on religious problems in the USSR--has told a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent in Moscow that there are 500,000 "practicing" Jews in the Soviet Union, and 400 synagogues. (The Jewish population in the Soviet Union is generally estimated at 3,000,000.)

The JTA's Rome correspondent, Mrs. Tullia Zevi, has just returned from a week's visit to Moscow, where she interviewed government officials as well as various non-official sources familiar with Jewish life in the Soviet Union.

M. Voschikow, one of the five members of the "Committee for Religious Cults," interviewed by Mrs. Zevi, conceded "there are persons with anti-Semitic feelings in the USSR." But Mr. Voschikow insisted that such feelings in the Soviet Union are only similar to "anti-Protestant feelings in Italy, or dislike of Italians in the United States."

The Soviet civil authorities, declared Mr. Voschikow, "don't encourage such feelings. When they are too strongly manifested, they are prosecuted and punished according to Soviet law for the protection of nationalities, applying also to the Jewish nationality."

Mr. Voschikow, whose committee is appointed directly by the Cabinet of the USSR, minimized the incident at the Moscow suburb of Malakhovka, last October 4, when fire was set to a synagogue and a Jewish woman, wife of the Jewish cemetery's caretaker, died. The incident had attracted world-wide attention.

According to the Soviet official, somebody had started a fire in an upper floor of the synagogue as well as to a building of the adjoining cemetery. The dead woman, he said, was suffocated by smoke while trying to escape the flames. The entire monetary loss, Mr. Voschikow said, was only about 260 rubles--the equivalent of \$20.

Mr. Voschikow's version of the Malakhovka incident--the first given by any Soviet official since October 4--is that the religious services in the Malakhovka house of Jewish worship had not been interrupted even for a single day. He said those responsible for the fire have been found, and a judicial investigation into the occurrence is now under way. Declaring that he did not know the names, number or ages of those responsible for the incident, he held, nevertheless, that the episode was one of "hooliganism committed by an isolated group, and did not constitute organized action."

## Unofficial Sources Doubt Government Version, Report Anti-Semitism

Other reliable, unofficial information about the Malakhovka incident differed from the version given by Mr. Voschikow. Doubting that the incident was the fault of an unorganized group, the unofficial sources stated that, during two consecutive nights, before and after the incident, anti-Semitic leaflets, bearing the old Czarist slogan "Hit Jews and Save Russia," were placed on walls of Jewish homes in Malakhovka. The leaflets also referred to the town as a "second Jerusalem." The population of Malakhovka is about 30,000, of which about 10 percent are Jews.

The unofficial sources insisted that the dead woman had not been suffocated by smoke, but had been strangled. They estimated the damage at several thousand dollars, declaring that the cemetery and the caretaker's home were destroyed, and that several hundred Jewish books had been lost in the flames. Furthermore, they insisted, the October 4 incident was only the last of a series of similar attempts made earlier to burn down the synagogue at Malakhovka.

According to the unofficial sources, there was considerable delay on the part of the authorities in taking action following the incident, but steps were finally taken after the incident had been given prominence in the foreign press.

## ISRAEL PARLIAMENT TAKES STEPS TO AVOID NEW JERUSALEM CITY ELECTIONS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- A bill authorizing the District Court here to validate 50 previously rejected ballots, cast in last November's elections to this city's municipal government, was passed by a Parliament committee today. If the measure is finally adopted, it will avoid the necessity for holding a new election here. Under the law, such an election must be held not later than February 4.

The effect of the bill would be to give the General Zionists a seat in the Municipal Council. The batch of votes invalidated by a court here a week ago was found to contain five additional votes for the General Zionist list, which had lost out by four votes in the official tabulation of the November balloting.

Adoption of the bill by the committee gives it priority, so that it may be passed by the Parliament on final reading.

## NEW SIX-INCH PIPELINE FOR NATURAL GAS TO BE BUILT IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- A six-inch 30-kilometer pipeline will be laid between the recently-discovered Rosh Zohar natural gas field and the Sdom Potash Works, it was announced today. The project was outlined in an agreement between the Dead Sea Works and the Naphtal Petroleum Company, which has a concession to the natural gas field.

## NEW YORK SCHOOL HEAD PLANS COMPLETE SHUTDOWN ON JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS

NEW YORK, Jan. 12, (JTA) -- A proposal to close New York City's schools on both days of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur will be recommended to the city's Board of Education by Dr. John J. Theobald, superintendent of schools, it was revealed today. The Board will consider the proposal at a meeting in the spring, when it must act on the 1960-61 school calendar.

Until now, none of the Jewish High Holy Days has been an official school holiday in this city, although pupils and teachers who wished to absent themselves on those days were permitted to do so. Officially, Good Friday and Christmas have been the only religious holidays recognized by the Board of Education.

Dr. Theobald, confirming his recommendation, stated he was proposing the new holidays to the Board for "administrative" reasons. An estimated 18,000 of the city's 40,000 teachers and supervisors, including principals, are Jewish, while the number of Jewish pupils is estimated at about one-third of the 950,000 pupils in the city's school system.

As a result of "extensive absences" on the Jewish High Holy Days, Dr. Theobald said, "we have in some school buildings full attendance by non-Jewish children, and almost complete absence of staff, creating a safety hazard which I think we should not risk. In other schools, we have a full staff of teachers and virtually no children."

## CHICAGO JEWS TO BUILD NEW TREATMENT CENTER FOR DISTURBED CHILDREN

CHICAGO, Jan. 12, (JTA) -- A new, \$1,000,000 special treatment center for children with severe emotional disturbances will be built by the Jewish Children's Bureau of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, it was announced by Herbert B. Snower, JCB president, last night, at the Bureau's 70th annual meeting here.

At the same time, announcement was made of a \$200,000 gift to the Jewish Federation's United Building Fund, which will go towards the construction of this treatment center. That gift was made by the Pritzker family, including Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Pritzker; their sons and their respective families; and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pritzker.

The center, to be operated by the Jewish Children's Bureau, will occupy two buildings on a block-square site. It will be called the Nicholas J. Pritzker Treatment Center, named after the late father of A. N. and Jack Pritzker, who was an organizer and founder of the Marks Nathan Jewish Orphans Home.

Towards the total cost of \$1,000,000, the Jewish Federation's united building fund will provide \$845,000. The remainder of \$155,000 will come out of the Jewish Children's Bureau's endowments funds.

## BANK OF ISRAEL HEAD TO ADDRESS BOND DRIVE CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Jan. 12, (JTA) -- Dr. David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank of Israel, Israel's central financial institution, will address the national planning conference of the board of governors and executive committee of the Israel bond drive this week-end, it was announced today by Abraham Feinberg, president of the Israel Bond Organization.

Dr. Horowitz, who served as the first director-general of Israel's Ministry of Finance, will confer with business and communal leaders on plans for the 1960 Israel bond drive at the meeting, which will be held at the Biltmore Hotel here, from Friday through Sunday. He will report on Israel's financial needs for economic development at the three-day Conference, which has been called to review the results of the 1959 campaign for Israel bonds, and to adopt an effective program of action for the coming year. The 1960 campaign will mark the tenth year of the Israel bond drive.

Among other prominent personalities who will address the conference are Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the board of governors of the Israel Bond Organization; Mr. Feinberg, president; Ira Gudden of New York, national campaign chairman; Lawrence G. Laskey of Boston, chairman of the executive committee; Samuel Rothberg, of Peoria, chairman of trustees; and Mrs. Joseph Cherner, of Washington, chairman of the national women's division.

Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president of the bond organization, will present a report on meetings in Israel with Finance Minister Levi Eshkol and other Government leaders. Dr. Schwartz has just returned from Israel, where he conferred with key officials on Israel's economic requirements for the new year, and plans for the sale of Israel bonds in the United States, Canada and other free countries in 1960.

## NEWARK EXECUTIVE TO HEAD COMBINED JEWISH APPEAL AT MONTREAL

NEWARK, N. J., Jan. 12, (JTA) -- Alvin Bronstein, director of the Jewish Community Council of Essex County, is leaving his post here, to assume the executive directorship of the Combined Jewish Appeal of Montreal, and of the Federation of Jewish Community services there, it was announced here today.

At Montreal, Mr. Bronstein will succeed Arthur Rosichan, who has become director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Miami, Florida.