



# Jewish Telegraphic Agency

## DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXVII - 42nd year

Monday, October 24, 1960

No. 201

### SHADOW OF TERROR, BIAS HOUND RUSSIAN JEWS, FRENCH LEADER REPORTS

PARIS, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- A portrait of the present-day position of Russia's approximate 3,000,000 Jews, confirming all previous reports that showed there is no central Jewish religious organization, no Yiddish press whatever, and lingering fears that the anti-Semitic terror period of 1948-53 might recur, was drawn here today by Andre Blumel, one of the topmost leaders of French Jewry and former president of the French Zionist Organization.

Special significance was attributed to M. Blumel's report by the fact that he is one of the co-chairmen of France USSR, an organization whose aim is the fostering of mutual understanding between this country and the Soviet Union. M. Blumel is also one of the world leaders of the International League for Human Rights.

Just returned from a ten-day survey of the conditions under which Russian Jews live now, M. Blumel reported he found that the period of anti-Semitic terror under the last years of Stalin, during the years 1948 to 1953, has left an "indelible mark" on Soviet Jewry. Even today, he stated, the attitudes and reactions of Soviet Jews are fraught with fears that a similar wave of persecutions might return to haunt their existence. Government administrators and Russians in general, the Jewish leader said, are still "permeated" with the pre-1953 anti-Semitic attitude.

On the whole, M. Blumel found, Soviet Jews enjoy a feeling of relief that the "black, purge years" are over, but the fears are there. While Jews are coming forward more and more openly with demands for the establishment of a central, Jewish religious organization and the revival of Yiddish theatre, the Russian rabbinate "lacks courage," while Yiddish-language writers are "reluctant" to insist upon the revival of Yiddish literature, "due to the memory of the 1948-53 period."

M. Blumel reported various promises from Soviet Government officials to improve the general situation regarding Jews. On the other hand, he reported, he could not during his visit obtain from the Government any data showing that there are Jews in the Soviet foreign service; and he could not find proof that distribution of matzah for Passover had been permitted anywhere except in Leningrad and Moscow.

### Finds Only 107 Jews Out Of 10,000 Workers In Big Moscow Plant

The Jewish leader reported that he and his personal interpreter, whom he brought from France, found only 107 Jews among the workers in one of the largest manufacturing plants outside Moscow, where 10,000 workers are employed. But these workers, he said, were "indignant" at reports their children have been found ineligible for admission into "the most important Soviet schools, being snubbed most often into engineering schools and law faculties.

Many Russian Jews have received honors for scientific work, M. Blumel said, while many others practice law. He said he was told that about 50 percent of the lawyers in Kharkov and Leningrad are Jews.

The fact that Russian Jews want avidly to show their religious affiliation was illustrated by a personal observation by M. Blumel, in Leningrad, which he visited on Simchat Torah, the last day of the Succot festival. He reported that more than 15,000 Jews milled in the streets outside the Leningrad synagogue on Simchat Torah, unable to enter the house of worship which was crowded to capacity.

In talks with officials of the Soviet Government's department of religious affairs, and in conversations with Jewish community leaders, M. Blumel reported, he was given these promises:

The Jewish community in Leningrad is to receive a 55-acre grant from the municipality for a cemetery and for the construction of a new synagogue; and has received authorization to print 5,000 prayer books. In response to protests, the Babiyah mass-grave cemetery in Kiev, where the remains of 10,000 Jews massacred by the Nazis are interred, will not be turned into a municipal park but will, instead, be marked by a monument honoring the memories of the Jewish dead.

Yiddish writers will be permitted to issue a periodical in Yiddish as a "test" that would determine whether there is public demand for such a publication on a regular basis.

On the whole, M. Blumel reports, he found the Chief Rabbi in Moscow "not a very courageous individual," while there is "little inclination on the part of Jewish leaders to stick their necks out" for fear of a recurrence of the terroristic period of 1948-53.

#### BEN-GURION REPORTED READY TO RESIGN DUE TO LAVON AFFAIR

JERUSALEM, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion has reportedly threatened to resign from his leadership of the Government, if Parliament's committee on foreign affairs and security continues to insist on probing the affair involving Pinhas Lavon, secretary-general of the Israel Federation of Labor, who resigned from the Cabinet as Minister of Defense in 1955.

Mr. Ben-Gurion conferred today with President Izhak Ben-Zvi, after a meeting of the Cabinet at which the Lavon affair was discussed. Circles close to Mr. Ben-Gurion said that the Premier's visit was intended to underscore his insistence that the Parliament committee halt its probe into the Lavon matter, on threat that, otherwise, he would quit.

At the meeting of the Cabinet, Mr. Ben-Gurion requested that a judicial commission be appointed, with powers of subpoena, to ascertain the facts about who gave the orders in 1955 that resulted in the Lavon affair. Minister of Justice Pinhas Rosen is expected to formulate before next week's Cabinet meeting the terms of reference for such a commission.

The Prime Minister disclosed to the Cabinet that two Israeli Army officers, one of whom is now in the Army, and the other on reserve duty, participated in "inciting" a witness to give false testimony during the 1955 probe that preceded Lavon's resignation from the Defense Ministry. The Premier said that the Chief of Staff of Israel's Defense Forces must now consider whether the regular army officer who participated in suborning perjury should be disciplined.

None of the specific details surrounding the Lavon affair has ever been disclosed, since these details are said to involve state security matters.

#### ISRAELI CHIEF RABBI ELECTION BLOCKED AS GROUP LOSES QUORUM

JERUSALEM, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- The controversy over the election for the post of Chief Rabbi took a dramatic turn today when one of the five remaining members of the nominating commission resigned, leaving that body without the necessary quorum, and halting further steps in the election procedure. The commission originally consisted of four appointees of the Chief Rabbinate Council, and four members named by the Ministry for Religious Affairs.

The Supreme Court ruled several weeks ago that five members of the commission constituted a quorum, after three of the Rabbinate appointees had resigned. The latest member to resign is Rabbi Eliezer Waldenberg, who was appointed by the Religious Affairs Ministry. The nominating commission is responsible for arranging the elections.

The expiration last Friday of the term of office of the Chief Rabbi, and Chief Rabbinate Council, left them without legal powers. While they retain moral authority over observant Jews, the judgments of the Rabbinical Court of Appeal, the supreme authority in some cases, will be without legal validity, unless the Government decides to extend their terms of office.

#### ARAB PRESS SAYS EISENHOWER PASTOR MADE ANTI-ISRAEL REMARKS IN JORDAN

JERUSALEM, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- The Rev. Edward Ellison, of Washington, pastor of the church usually attended in Washington by President Eisenhower, was quoted in the Arab press today as having made strong, anti-Israeli statements before leaving Amman.

Dr. Ellison visited the Jordanian capital as a member of a group representing the "American Friends of the Middle East." He was quoted as saying: "Upon our return, we will do our best to defend your position, particularly in your fight against Israel."

#### CZECHOSLOVAKIA OFFERS TO FURNISH MATERIAL ABOUT EICHMANN

JERUSALEM, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministry of Czechoslovakia today notified the Israel legation at Prague that it would supply to Israel material pertaining to the activities by Adolf Eichmann, No. 1 Nazi mass-murderer of Jews, during the Nazi regime in Czechoslovakia. Political circles here expressed the hope that other countries in the Soviet bloc would now follow suit, before Eichmann is placed on trial here.

### AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS OPPOSES U.N. COUNCIL SEAT FOR EGYPT

NEW YORK, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress called on the United States Government today to support one of the new African states rather than the United Arab Republic for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

In a resolution, the national governing council of the Jewish Congress charged the UAR with "intransigent and persistent defiance of the very United Nations Security Council to whose membership it now aspires." These actions, the resolution declared, "preclude the election of the United Arab Republic to any post at which it will be charged with the preservation and promotion of world peace."

In urging that the U.S. throw its support for the non-permanent Security Council seat to one of the new African states in the United Nations, the Congress declared such a move would "enhance the prestige of these new states and strengthen our own relationship with them." The resolution said this step would also "serve notice that member states cannot with impunity pursue a course of piracy and warmongering" and would "uphold the principle that leadership in the United Nations must be entrusted only to those states whose actions clearly demonstrate a respect for international morality and the law of nations."

More than 100 Congress leaders from various sections of the country attended the meeting. The resolution was presented by Dr. Joachim Prinz, president of the Congress, who said it will be forwarded to the White House and State Department. Nathan Edelstein, of Philadelphia chairman of the governing council, presided.

### CHESTER BOWLES URGES ARAB RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S PERMANENCE

BOSTON, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- Arab recognition of Israel's permanence was urged today by Rep. Chester Bowles of Connecticut, an adviser to Democratic Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy. Mr. Bowles is widely considered as Sen. Kennedy's choice for Secretary of State or U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations if the Democrats win in November. Rep. Bowles commented on the Israel-Arab situation in a Washington interview published here this weekend by the Christian Science Monitor.

"The Arabs have never really understood the long commitment that we have all had to the development of Israel," Rep. Bowles declared. "The Middle East conflict will be eased a great deal when the Arab nations begin to realize that, whatever they think of Israel, it is there to stay."

### BOSTON ORGANIZATIONS COMPLETE MERGER OF TWO JEWISH FUND-RAISING GROUPS

BOSTON, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- The general members of the Associated Jewish Philanthropies, and of the Combined Jewish Appeal of Greater Boston, last night ratified the actions of the trustees of the two organizations to merge into a single central agency. The members also approved the new name of the new organization, the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston. Enabling legislation was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature and was signed by Governor Furcolo. The new name will become effective 90 days following the Governor's signature.

Merger of the two agencies brings to an end five years of intensive and thorough effort by over 60 people. Steps to merge were initiated in 1955, when Benjamin Ulin was president of the Associated Jewish Philanthropies, and Lewis H. Weinstein of the Combined Jewish Appeal.

The Associated Jewish Philanthropies president Simon H. Helman and CJA President Louis P. Smith hailed the merger as the "opening of a new era in social planning and fund-raising to meet total Jews needs at home, nationally, overseas and in Israel."

### LUBAVITCHER HASSIDIM VISIT WHITE HOUSE, STATE DEPT., MAYOR WAGNER

NEW YORK, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- Four members of the Lubavitcher Hassidic movement in Israel, headed by Shlomo Madanchik, Mayor of the Lubavitcher village of Kfar Chabad in Israel, paid a courtesy call on Mayor Robert F. Wagner here this weekend, after similar previous visits to the White House and the State Department in Washington.

The four, with 66 other Israeli Lubavitchers who are returning home Wednesday, have been visiting the United States since coming here for the High Holy Days to pay their respects to Rabbi Menachem Schneersohn, the Lubavitcher Rebbe of Brooklyn, head of the movement.

In addition to Mayor Madanchik, the Israeli Hassidim who participated in the official visits, were Rabbi S. Sossenkin, Rabbi David Chanzin and Abraham Paris. They were accompanied by two American rabbis, Rabbi S. Hecht of Chicago and Rabbi David Hollander of The Bronx.

## EISENHOWER GREET'S WORLD ORT CONGRESS; 30 LANDS REPRESENTED AT PARLEY

LONDON, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower today praised the "notable record" achieved by ORT since it was founded in 1880, as the World ORT Union convened here today for its 80th anniversary congress.

"Man's concern for his fellow man," President Eisenhower stated in a message to William Haber, president of ORT, "is well expressed in efforts that advance the opportunity to achieve economic independence and pride of livelihood. During the past 80 years, the members of ORT have made a notable record in developing productive skills among hundreds of thousands of distressed persons throughout the world, and through the vocational training of individuals they have contributed much to the strength of their community and nation."

ORT groups from 30 countries have sent 250 delegates to the five-day congress that opened this morning. In addition, leading diplomats and ranking United Nations representatives are here either as speakers or as observers.

On the agenda are measures for providing economic rehabilitation to Jews in flight from various countries, the vocational training requirements of more than half a million Jews in North Africa and in Iran, and a survey of the economic future of Israel. That survey is part of ORT's continuing effort to help Israel's economic advancement and development of competent Israeli labor forces for industry and manufacture in the Jewish State.

Outlining the growth of the organization since 1880, and declaring it is the largest non-governmental organization in the world devoted to vocational training and education, Dr. Haber stated that, last year alone, ORT provided instruction to 50,000 young people and adults. Since the end of World War II, he reported, the organization has spent over \$50,000,000 for economic rehabilitation, and its current annual budget totals almost \$17,000,000. ORT conducts more than 650 vocational training and technical education units in 19 countries on five continents.

## HIAS TOLD 2,200 CONGO JEWS FEAR FUTURE; RICE REPORTS ON MIGRATIONS

PARIS, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- The 2,200 remaining Jews in the Congo are fearful of the future, and have grave doubts about the advisability of staying, the annual program review meeting of the United Hias Service here was told this weekend.

The report was presented by Morton Friedman, United Hias representative, who arrived here from Elizabethville, the center of the largest Jewish concentration in the strife-wracked country. He said more than 60 Jewish families quit the Congo permanently, as a result of the riots there. He reported that, in Elizabethville, 20 percent of the Jewish population had suffered directly as the result of attacks against the homes and businesses of European whites.

Mr. Friedman said that, while the situation was calmer at present and fears of further physical violence had abated, many Jews are considering leaving the Congo. Jews now constitute about 20 percent of the total white population in Elizabethville, he stated.

James P. Rice, Hias executive director, said the primary purpose of the conference was to examine current possibilities for Jewish emigration from Western and Eastern Europe, and changing conditions in the lands of migration, departure and reception. He said that, by the end of 1960, about 4,000 persons will have been resettled by United Hias this year, and 7,000 more Jews were given migration and related assistance of all kinds.

## REFORM MOVEMENT LAUNCHES FUND DRIVE; EISENDRATH CONDEMNS BIGOTRY

NEW YORK, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- More than 1,500 Jewish leaders last night launched the 1960-61 nationwide combined campaign for Reform Judaism by contributing \$703,000 toward a goal totaling \$4,122,769. The campaign is Reform Judaism's central agency for support of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

The fund-raising dinner was the culminating event of a four-day series of conferences and special ceremonies held here to dedicate the House of Living Judaism, the expanded national headquarters of the UAHG. Among the speakers at the dinner were Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the UAHG; Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt; and U.S. Senator Jacob K. Javits.

In his address, Dr. Eisendrath sharply condemned "the injection of the religious issue" in the presidential campaign, deploring "the widespread avalanche of hate-mongering." "If a religious test for public office is wrong," he declared, "and we know that constitutionally and morally it is wrong, we must speak out--and we do."