



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXVII - 42nd year

Friday, December 9, 1960

No. 233

NATIONAL U. J. A. CONFERENCE OPENS TODAY; WILL SET 1961 CAMPAIGN GOAL

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- The 23rd annual national conference of the United Jewish Appeal will open here tomorrow with more than 1,500 Jewish community leaders from all parts of the country participating in the formulation of the 1961 nationwide UJA drive.

Two of the most important actions facing the delegates are: 1. A decision on the proposal to adopt a definite amount as a campaign goal and to set adequate community quotas based on that national goal. This is the first time in eight years that a fixed goal has been proposed for the national UJA drive. 2. Election of a new general chairman to succeed Morris W. Berinstein in that top national UJA post.

At the opening session of the three-day meeting at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, the conference will hear from Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman; Dr. Dov Joseph, treasurer of the Jewish Agency for Israel, and Charles H. Jordan, director-general for Overseas Operations of the Joint Distribution Committee. The UJA national chairman, William Rosenwald, will preside at the first session. Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York will be the main speaker on Saturday evening at the dinner session. Other speakers at the dinner will include Pinhas Sapir, Israel's Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Leon Uris, author of "Exodus."

J. D. C. ADOPTS \$28, 775, 000 BUDGET FOR 1961; WARBURG RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Edward M. M. Warburg was tonight re-elected chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee for the 16th successive year at the 46th annual meeting of the organization which was attended by 400 delegates from all parts of the country. The meeting adopted a budget of \$28, 775, 000 for JDC's aid program in 1961.

The largest single item in the budget--\$10, 000, 000--is for the JDC's work on behalf of aged, ill and handicapped newcomers to Israel. It is estimated that more than 300, 000 men, women and children in 25 countries overseas will need JDC assistance in the coming year. The delegates also voted a resolution pledging full support of the United Jewish Appeal campaign for 1961.

Mr. Warburg, addressing the delegates, dealt especially with the "miracle" achieved by Jewish communities in Western Europe. "It has taken 15 difficult years for these scattered communities, but now they are testimony to Hitler's final defeat," he said. "Where once there was rubble and ruin, where once there was only a handful of survivors, there are now communities again, communities which once more have a future."

He cited the recent establishment of the Standing Conference on European Jewish Communal Services by representatives of 14 countries, a body through which the Jewish communities of Western Europe will have an opportunity to exchange experiences, and to discuss standards of aid and service. In addition, he noted the establishment and re-establishment of Jewish community institutions, notably the opening in recent months of the first post-war Jewish school in Athens, Greece; and a new mental hospital in The Netherlands.

J. D. C. Aid in Restoring Jewish Communities in Europe Stressed

"This rebuilding would not have been possible without the continuing assistance of the JDC and the American Jewish community through the United Jewish Appeal," Mr. Warburg said. "These communities would be the first to tell you that this is not only their triumph, but yours as well. They would tell you that what they have achieved is a monument to man's humanity to man."

Despite these notable advances in Western Europe, Mr. Warburg pointed out that the JDC still bears major responsibility for aiding hundreds of thousands of needy Jews "under difficult circumstances" in Eastern Europe, and in Moslem countries. "For them, the achievements in Western Europe serve as testimony that they too will not be forgotten. For them, we must serve as the candle of hope in the darkness of uncertainty and fear," he declared.

Moses A. Leavitt, JDC executive vice-chairman, who returned recently from a survey in the Congo, Rhodesia, South Africa and other countries, predicted that "during the coming decade, conflict will be the rule rather than the exception" in Africa. He noted that Africa actually consists of three sub-continents--the Moslem lands of North Africa, the great

central mass of Black Africa, including both colonial and newly independent nations; and South Africa in a category by itself.

Turning his attention to the Jewish population of the African continent, Mr. Leavitt pointed out that by far the largest number--nearly 400,000--lives in Morocco and other North African countries. "In these countries, the deteriorating economic situation, which followed on the heels of independence, has brought mounting insecurity to a Jewish population which has lived in North Africa for many centuries. The unresolved conflict in Algeria, in particular, may well bring new hardships during the months ahead."

Many of the Jews in Central Africa, he indicated, have been refugees for a good part of their lives. A few thousand reached the Congo and other areas during World War II, seeking a haven from the advance of nazism. Even in the face of the Congo riots, many were reluctant to leave, although some have already resettled in Israel, South America, South Africa and other countries.

Every Fifth Jew in Moslem Lands Is A J.D.C. Beneficiary

Charles H. Jordan, JDC director-general for overseas operations, told the delegates, in presenting the 1961 budget, that about 150,000 of those who will need JDC aid in 1961 will be reached through normal JDC programs in Europe, as well as through relief to Jews in transit.

He reported that one out of every five Jews in North Africa and Iran was a beneficiary of the JDC, many of them children. He said that in Israel, the JDC would provide services to some 60,000 persons. The handicapped, the aged and the chronically sick among them will be helped through the Malben-JDC program. Others will benefit through JDC support of yeshivahs and help to refugee rabbis, cantors and other religious functionaries. Still others will be helped through the ORT vocational training programs.

Sol Satinsky, of Philadelphia, who was re-elected chairman of the JDC national council, stressed in his report to the delegates that in everything JDC does, it carries out the will of the American Jewish community. "But," he declared, "if it is through us that the communities make clear their support for the work and the programs of the JDC, then the reverse side of the same coin is our own obligation to the communities in which we live."

"If we are the voice of the communities in the councils of the JDC and the United Jewish Appeal, we are the voice--in our communities--of the children of the mellahs of North Africa, the aged in Israel, the refugees in France, the sick and the needy and the helpless in 25 countries."

ARABS LOSE FIGHT IN UNITED NATIONS ON DEMANDS OPPOSED BY ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 8. (JTA) -- The Arab delegations here have lost their fight to push the Western Powers into agreement for the appointment of a custodian in charge of properties allegedly left by the Arab refugees in Israel, and for the expansion of the Palestine Conciliation Commission, it was learned on highest authority here today.

As a result, the Western Powers--led by the United States, Britain, France, Canada, New Zealand and Australia--will back a resolution on the Arab refugee problem which the Arabs are expected to fight, and try to amend, before the General Assembly's Special Political Committee.

The committee suspended debate of its item on the Arab refugee problem while negotiations proceeded behind the scenes between the six Western Powers and the Arab delegations in an effort to reach agreement on a draft resolution. After more than a week of negotiations, the West has finally and firmly rejected the Arab proposals.

In addition to demanding appointment of a UN custodian for Arab property in Israel, the Arab delegations are demanding that the PCC be enlarged to include six additional members, three of which would represent Communist countries and three from "uncommitted" Afro-Asian lands.

Israel has made it clear, through conferences in Jerusalem between Mrs. Golda Meir, the Foreign Minister, and Western envoys, that she is opposed to both Arab demands. The PCC consists of three members, representing the United States, France and Turkey.

BEN-GURION LAUDS J. T. A. TRANSMISSION OF NEWS IN HEBREW ALPHABET

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion lauded today the start of transmission of Hebrew language news material on the new radio facsimile circuit of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency between its New York headquarters and the Tel Aviv office of the Israeli News Agency, its Israel subsidiary.

In a message to Eleazar Lipsky, president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Mr. Ben-Gurion said: "The beginning of trans-Atlantic transmissions in Hebrew letters represents an important milestone in the revival of our ancient language. I hope these transmissions will assist in the strengthening of ties between Israel and the Jewish communities outside of Israel and aid in the spreading of the Hebrew language in those communities."

ISRAEL AND SOVIET UNION TO COMPETE IN KNOW-HOW AID TO GHANA

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Israeli know-how in technical assistance will compete with that of the Soviet Union in Ghana as a result of agreements signed today in that African country for the creation of experimental farms on Ghana's coastal strip.

The Ghana Government signed similar agreements with Israel and the Soviet Union for establishment and management of an equal number of such farms. It appeared certain that competition would develop between the groups of technicians from the two countries in a race to see which would produce better development, higher farm yields, the greater number of graduates in training courses and similar aspects of the experimental program.

DELEGATION DISCUSSES SITUATION OF JEWS IN RUSSIA WITH SOVIET ENVOY

PARIS, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Daniel Mayer, who served as president of the Conference on the status of Soviet Jewry here last September, met today with Sergei Vinogradov, the Soviet Ambassador to France, with whom Mayer discussed the situation of Soviet Jews.

The meeting was officially described as "very friendly and cordial." Mr. Mayer, who was accompanied by Jacques Nante, a Catholic writer who served as rapporteur for the September conference, drew the Soviet envoy's attention to the resolutions passed at the conference dealing with discrimination against Jews in the USSR. Mr. Mayer also expressed to the envoy the anxiety felt in liberal groups throughout the world over the situation of Soviet Jews. The possibilities of a visit by Mayer and other leaders to the Soviet Union was raised at today's meeting.

ALGERIAN JEWS TO RETAIN FRENCH CITIZENSHIP, PREMIER ASSURES

PARIS, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Michel Debre gave assurances today in Parliament that all Frenchmen in Algeria, "whether Christians, Moslems or Jews," will keep their nationality regardless of the outcome of the coming referendum.

During a full dress debate on the Algerian problem, the Premier said that all Algerians with French nationality could be certain they would keep such nationality for themselves and their descendants "if they so want, whatever the outcome of the public referendum" on the future of Algeria may be. That assurance also had been given in private talks between high French Government officials and Jewish leaders.

THREE STATES DEFEND SUNDAY LAWS BEFORE U.S. SUPREME COURT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Pennsylvania and Maryland defended today their Sunday closing laws before the United States Supreme Court, which has been asked to rule on the constitutionality of such laws. Massachusetts defended its Sunday law yesterday in the hearings which were concluded this afternoon.

The high court ruling, when it is issued, is expected to affect such laws, which curtail Sunday work and business, in about 35 states and a great number of countries and municipalities.

The Pennsylvania and Maryland cases came to the Supreme Court on appeals against lower court decisions in those states upholding such laws. The test of the Massachusetts law was on the basis of a Massachusetts court ruling outlawing that state's Sunday law and an appeal against that ruling.

Lower courts in both Pennsylvania and Maryland have upheld the Blue Laws but the plaintiffs appealed the decision. The defense of the closing laws was today similar in line to arguments brought before the court yesterday by the attorney for the State of Massachusetts, and are based mainly on the contention that even though these laws originally were prompted by religious tradition, they have in the passage of time, come to constitute a system of economic and social legislation.

Against this argument, opponents of the Sunday laws contend that they violate the barrier between Church and State, favoring certain religions over others. This, however, is not the only argument against the Blue Laws.

Justices Hugo Black and John M. Harlan yesterday asked Boston attorney Herbert Ehrmann, president of the American Jewish Committee, who represents the Crown Kasher Supermarket in its case against the Police Commissioner of Springfield Mass., whether there would be any point in the court's deciding the case on the grounds that the law included religious overtones in its language. It was noted that if the law were invalidated on that ground, the state could pass a new law in different language but still of the same substance.

Mr. Ehrmann replied that even a purported day-of-rest law which would designate Sunday as the day without exempting those who worshipped on other days, would discriminate against them in violation of the constitution.

A number of amicus briefs were filed by various organizations. While the National Retail Merchants Association and the Retail Clerks International Association of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations, filed their briefs in favor of the Sunday Laws, the following argued in opposition to it: The American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Seventh Day Adventists.

HARMAN ADDRESSES YALE UNIVERSITY AUDIENCE ON ISRAEL-ARAB ISSUES

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman, addressing an audience last night at Yale University, said that until the Arab leaders are willing to "articulate" to their people that Israel exists, there will be no solution to the difficult problems facing the Middle East. "I have reason to believe that there are Arab leaders who tell themselves of the reality of Israel but don't tell this to their people," he declared.

Mr. Harman emphasized the Arab countries must be willing to accept the fact of Israel's existence and durability if there is to be a solution of the Arab refugee problem. He said this problem has not been solved because the Arabs have used the refugees for conducting a "political controversy." "If the Arabs wanted to solve this problem," Ambassador Harman said, "they would not urge repatriation of the refugees and drag them to go back and blow up Israel, but would absorb them into their own countries."

Declaring that the Arabs were responsible for the refugees by starting the war in 1948--a war which also created a Jewish refugee problem from the Arab countries-- Ambassador Harman reiterated a position taken last week by Israeli President Itzhak Ben-Zvi in an interview with the Washington Post, by saying that there had already been an exchange of population. "We have 450,000 Jewish refugees from the Arab countries," he said, "and the Arabs have 450,000 Arab refugees from Israel." However, he added, Israel is willing to negotiate with the Arabs on the refugee problem, "even ahead of a peace settlement."

Israel is willing to pay "compensation for abandoned property," he stated, adding that Israel is equally willing to negotiate a disarmament agreement for the Middle East. Such an agreement he said, would be amenable to inspection as most of "the deadly weapons are not manufactured in the Middle East, but imported."

EXHIBITION DEPICTS ROLE OF AMERICAN JEWS DURING CIVIL WAR YEARS

NEW YORK, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- The civic and military role of American Jews, of both the north and the south during the Civil War, is depicted in a major exhibit of historical items which was opened today at the Jewish Museum of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America here.

More than 150 items were placed on display in the exhibit which was organized in commemoration of the Civil War Centennial. Among the themes are the attitudes of the 180,000 Jews of the period toward slavery, the role of the Jews in the armed forces, government, medicine and other fields, the Jews associated with Abraham Lincoln, and writings in English, Hebrew and Yiddish on Lincoln and the war.

TRUMAN RECEIVES PART OF ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT OF 'EXODUS' FROM AUTHOR

INDEPENDENCE, Mo, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Former President Harry S. Truman today received the original manuscript of Book IV of "Exodus" from its author, Leon Uris, in the presence of leaders of the Israel Bond Organization. The presentation was made at the Truman Library here on the eve of a nationwide dinner sponsored by Israel bonds in Chicago on Saturday evening, at which more than 4,000 persons will honor Mr. Truman as "Man of the Century."

Book IV of "Exodus" depicts the events surrounding the United Nations decision in favor of the partition of Palestine, and the subsequent Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel. This section of "Exodus" also describes Mr. Truman's role in the events leading up to the establishment of the State of Israel, and notes that he was the first head of state to recognize the Jewish State.

JEWS IN CHILE FORM JEWISH FIRE BRIGADE; DEDICATE \$150,000 BUILDING

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- A new, \$150,000 headquarters for the Jewish Volunteer Fire Brigade here, called Bomba Israel, was dedicated yesterday with ceremonies in which high Chilean governmental officials participated, along with leaders of the Jewish Community of Chile. One of the principal guests of honor was Israel's Ambassador here, Eliezer Doron.

According to custom in this country, fire-fighting is in the hands of volunteer brigades. Among such groups are a Spanish Company, Italian and German. Several years ago, the Jewish Community formed its own fire brigade, called Bomba Israel. The new headquarters of Bomba Israel was built with funds provided entirely by the Chilean Jewish community.

ALFRED MARKMAN, JEWISH MAYOR OF PORT ELIZABETH, DIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 8. (JTA) -- Local leaders of all political parties and racial groups today attended funeral services for the late Alfred Markman, Jewish Mayor of Port Elizabeth for the last two years, who died suddenly.

Among the mourners were leaders of the white and the non-white communities, as well as prominent personalities among the English and the Afrikaans residents of Port Elizabeth. Mr. Markman, who had been active in Port Elizabeth politics, was also one of the outstanding leaders in Jewish communal affairs.