



Jewish Telegraphic Agency DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXVII - 42nd year

Tuesday, December 27, 1960

No. 244

WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS OPENS TODAY; POLITICAL PARTIES DISCUSS ISSUES

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The 25th World Zionist Congress opens here tomorrow to map plans for intensifying Jewish immigration to Israel and expanding Hebrew education in countries outside of Israel, as well as to attract non-Zionist fraternal organizations into the ranks of the world Zionist movement.

Prior to the opening of the Congress, various world conferences are taking place here of Zionist parties for the purpose of outlining their attitudes to the issues which will be taken up by the Congress. Some 100 delegates from 33 countries met here yesterday at the opening session of the two-day conference of the World Confederation of General Zionists, headed by Dr. Israel Goldstein and Mrs. Rose Halprin.

Dr. Goldstein announced that there will be no voting block at the Zionist Congress between this Confederation and the World Confederation of General Zionists headed by Dr. Emanuel Neumann. Dr. Goldstein also outlined a "five-year-plan" for an aliyah of 25,000 persons from the United States. The plan was opposed by Mrs. Halprin, asserting that no goals should be set because aliyah was a question for the individual to decide.

Simultaneously, the Confederation of General Zionists headed by Dr. Neumann is also holding a two-day world conference in Tel Aviv of its delegates to the Congress. Addressing the parley, Dr. Neumann suggested that the World Jewish Congress be merged with the world Zionist movement. He also urged that Israel's young generation be taught to understand the mutual responsibility of Israel and the Jewish people outside of Israel. Max Bressler, president of the Zionist Organization of America, discussed the role of the ZOA in expanding Jewish education in the United States.

Debate on Immigration from Western Countries Anticipated

One of the major topics to be debated at the sessions of the Zionist Congress is the issue of immigration to Israel from Western countries. At the conferences of both Confederations of General Zionists, this issue formed the center of discussion. It was also widely discussed at a world conference of the Achdut Avoda Party, now taking place here, attended by about 150 delegates, half of this number being delegates who represented the party in countries outside of Israel.

The left-wing Mapam party is similarly holding a session here to take stand on the issues facing the Zionist Congress. At a meeting of its political committee, the Mapam suggested that the Jewish Agency should give up some of its functions and concentrate most of its efforts on increasing pro-Israel feelings among Jews in the lands of the Diaspora. It also suggested that fraternal members of the Zionist Congress be given a "special frame" in which they could work for Israel.

The Mapai, Israel's leading party, announced at its world conference today that it would propose a complete separation between Jewish Agency and Israel Government functions, so that the Agency would deal with absorption and housing. The announcement said Mapai would suggest that 10 percent of the Jewish Agency budget should be set aside for Hebrew education and to encourage halutzic and Zionist youth movements.

The right-wing Herut party, which is also holding a pre-Congress world convention here, heard an address by its leader, Menahem Beigin, in which he stated that Herut's position on Zionism at the Congress would be that the Zionist movement must be continued, and that every effort must be made to strengthen it. "Herut deplors any attempt to divide Jews into good and bad Zionists," he declared. He demanded that the Congress should demand from the Israel Government that it transfer the remains of Vladimir Jabotinsky, the late leader of the Revisionist party, to Israel for re-burial. Mr. Jabotinsky is buried in New York, where he died suddenly during a visit to the United States.

BEN-GURION CHALLENGES CABINET'S EXONERATION OF LAVON; DEMANDS DEBATE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion challenged today the Ministerial Report--approved yesterday by the Cabinet--which cleared Pinhas Lavon of responsibility for the 1954 "security mishap." He charged that the report did not reflect "the entire truth."

The report declared that a senior army officer had submitted a forged document in 1954, blaming Lavon for the mishap which, the report declared, had resulted from an action

carried out without Lavon's knowledge. The seven-member Ministerial committee said in its report that a letter submitted to the 1954 investigating committee contained the phrase "according to Lavon's order." The committee said it established that the phrase was added to the original order, and declared that "the senior officer submitted the forged copy... as proof that he had received the instruction from Lavon."

"We therefore state that Lavon did not give the order on which the senior officer relies and that the 'unfortunate episode' was carried out without his knowledge," the Cabinet-approved report stated.

Premier Says Lavon Gave False Evidence; Levels Other Charges

Three Mapai Ministers abstained from the Cabinet vote approving the Ministerial report, and the Prime Minister demonstratively announced he would not participate in the vote. Those abstaining were Minister of Education Abba Eban, Minister of Agriculture Moshe Dayan and Labor Minister Giara Josephthal.

Although the seven-man Ministerial committee submitted a unanimous report clearing Lavon, who was Minister of Defense when the "security mishap" occurred, and who is now secretary-general of the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation, the Prime Minister's scathing criticism of the report made it evident that the last word on the controversy was yet to be heard.

The Prime Minister made his views known in a statement he made after the Cabinet vote of approval yesterday. He reiterated his demand for a full dress debate, and charged that Lavon gave false evidence before a session of the Committee for Security and Foreign Affairs of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament.

The Prime Minister also charged that "certain actions" by Lavon as Defense Minister "should not have occurred." In still another accusation, the Prime Minister asserted that Lavon had undermined the authority of Moshe Sharett, who had been Prime Minister at the time, in allegedly not giving Mr. Sharett a report on "certain matters," and that, as Defense Minister, Lavon gave orders to officers without the knowledge of the Israel General Staff.

Mr. Ben-Gurion's criticism of the report and charges against Mr. Lavon left no doubt that Mr. Lavon's conduct will be the subject of another caucus in the Mapai leadership.

ISRAEL PREPARED TO PAY \$20,000 FEE TO EICHMANN'S DEFENSE LAWYER

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet is expected to approve at its next meeting a recommendation to provide \$20,000 for fees and costs requested by Dr. Robert Servatius for defending Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi colonel who directed the extermination of the 6,000,000 European Jews, it was learned today. Eichmann's trial is scheduled to begin March 6.

The recommendation was made by a special Ministerial committee which included Justice Minister Pinhas Rosen and Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister. The decision to pay the costs and fees of the German attorney was based on the fact that a rejection of Dr. Servatius' request would have resulted in his withdrawal from the case, because there is no other source of funds to pay him.

It was noted that the request to the Israel Government to pay the fees and costs was made by Dr. Servatius on the grounds that Eichmann had signed a statement agreeing to stand trial in Israel if he was provided an adequate defense. This was regarded as additional proof that Eichmann submitted himself to Israeli jurisdiction after his seizure in Buenos Aires last spring.

RABBINATE ELECTIONS POSTPONED AGAIN IN ISRAEL FOR FIVE WEEKS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Nominations Board agreed today to a request from a Joint Mapai-National Religious party delegation to postpone the elections of Chief Rabbis and a new Supreme Rabbinat Council again.

Rabbi Judah Maimon, chairman of the nominations board, accepted the plea but cut the time from the six weeks asked by the delegation to five weeks. He designated February 1 as the latest date for the much-postponed balloting. The bargaining was understood, however, to be a formality because it has been learned that the elections will not be held for at least another six months as a result of interparty maneuverings on the issue.

At issue is the question of candidates for the posts of Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi, which has been vacant since the death nearly 18 months ago of Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog, and Sephardic Chief Rabbi, now held by Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim, who is a candidate for re-election. The Mapai party favors Rabbi Shlomo Goren, Chief Chaplain of the Armed Forces, for the post of Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi.

WORLD JEWRY URGED TO RAISE \$1,000,000,000 IN DECADE FOR IMMIGRANTS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The world Keren Hayesod conference has called on world Jewry to raise \$1,000,000,000 in the coming decade "to complete the consolidation of the 1,000,000 immigrants" who have settled in Israel and to ensure "the absorption of the third million of Israel's population." The appeal was contained in a conference resolution.

GERMAN COURT OUTLAWS CONTINGENT FEES TO LAWYERS ON RESTITUTION

KARLSRUHE, West Germany, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Contingent fees, called "success charges" by German lawyers who have been billing indemnification or restitution claimants on the basis of how much money they succeeded in getting for their clients, were outlawed here today in a decision by the Supreme Court, West Germany's highest tribunal.

The decision may have a far-reaching effect on the net sums to be received by claimants, all of whom are victims of nazism, the vast majority of them Jews. In ruling on an appeal against such a "success fee" charged by a German attorney, the court declared that "the charging of exorbitant fees is contrary to the spirit of the Restitution Law.

The court stated that, while "contingent" or "success" fees may be customary in other countries, they are illegal in the Federal Republic of Germany.

EX-NAZI SENTENCED TO 21 LIFE TERMS FOR MURDERING CAMP INMATES

FULDA, West Germany, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Gottlieb Musikant, former SS medical orderly, was sentenced this weekend to 21 terms of life imprisonment for the proven murder of 21 prisoners in the Mauthausen and Steyr concentration camps in Austria. The court also ordered revocation of his civil rights for life.

The prosecution had demanded a life sentence "35 times over" at the close of the three-week trial. The court was told that testimony had shown that Musikant murdered at least 35 persons in the two camps. In addition, the prosecutor said in his summary, the 57-year-old defendant was proven to have killed at least 210 camp inmates by strangulations, beatings and lethal injections.

CASABLANCA MUNICIPALITY ASKED TO ASSURE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR JEWS

CASABLANCA, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Casablanca Municipal Council has been urged to act to assure freedom of movement in Morocco for Jews who are again confronted with passport difficulties.

Maati Bouabib, president of the council, gave assurance that serious consideration would be given to the problem and that everything possible would be done to see that Jews were not discriminated against. Bouabib is a former Minister of Labor.

Two Jewish members of the council, Max Loeub and Meyer Toledano, reported to the council on the problem of general restrictions of movement in Morocco and its effect on the movement of Moroccan Jews.

MOROCCAN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE NAMES CHIEF RABBI; JEWS SATISFIED

CASABLANCA, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Moroccan Ministry of Justice has named Grand Rabbi Chalom Messas president of the Casablanca rabbinical court, ending a year-long vacancy caused by the death of Grand Rabbi Ben Soussan.

The appointment was received with satisfaction by Moroccan Jews, particularly in rabbinical circles because it had been feared that the vacancy would not be filled. Grand Rabbi Malka Moise is vice-president of the rabbinical court.

Two of three Jewish candidates were elected today as members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Casablanca. The winners were David Azoulay, secretary general of the Casablanca Jewish committee, and M. Benouaich, both members of the National Union of Popular Forces. Meyer Obadiah, president of the Casablanca Jewish Committee, a member of the Istiqlal party, was defeated.

ALGIERS JEWISH COMMUNITY TO BURY TORAHS DESECRATED IN CASBAH RIOTS

ALGIERS, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Algiers completed plans today to bury the Torah scrolls which were desecrated in the rioting two weeks ago in the ancient synagogue of the Casbah quarter.

The plans, prepared by the Jewish Consistory of Algiers, call for a silent procession of the community to accompany the ravished scrolls through the city's streets from the synagogue to the Jewish cemetery. There will not be any speeches. In accordance with Jewish ritual, the prayer for the dead will be recited.

It was expected that the Algiers Chief Rabbi, possibly in conjunction with Christian and Moslem clerics, will issue a call for calm and for intercommunal understanding.

VANDALS ATTEMPT TO SET FIRE TO PARIS SYNAGOGUE; POLICE INVESTIGATE

PARIS, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Anti-Semitic vandals tried to set fire last night to the Rue Pavée synagogue by placing gasoline-soaked newspapers against a synagogue wall but passers-by put out the blaze, police reported today.

Police reported that the vandalism attempt was the second against the synagogue during the past two weeks. A police investigation was underway.

FLORIDA COURT BANS DISTRIBUTION OF BIBLES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The distribution of Gideon bibles in the Orange County public schools was banned here this weekend by the State District Court of Appeal. The court ruled that such distribution violated the Federal and state constitutions and was in sharp conflict with the doctrine of separation of Church and State.

The decision upheld the right of nine taxpayers and parents of schoolchildren to go to court for relief against distribution of the bibles. A lower court had dismissed a suit by the plaintiffs against the county school board, which sought to stop what they termed a violation of "the teachings and tenets" of their faith.

The appellate court ruling stated that if the Gideon group had distributed the "Koran, the Moslem bible, or the Talmud, the body of Jewish civil and canonical law, through the school system of an area whose inhabitants were strongly Protestant, we surmise that the Protestant groups would feel a sectarian resentment against the action of school authorities."

SPECIAL SERVICES MARK ANNIVERSARY OF DESECRATION OF COLOGNE SYNAGOGUE

COLOGNE, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Services commemorative of the 1959 swastika desecration of the new synagogue here, recalling the offensive acts that started a series of worldwide manifestations of anti-Semitism, were held here today at the synagogue and at the monument to victims of nazism in the center of Cologne.

Participating in the services were representatives of the Jewish community here as well as officers and members of the Society of Christians and Jews. All of the speakers condemned the anti-Semitic manifestations. One of the participants, Paul Schallueck, a German author, declared that the fears of resurgent anti-Semitism expressed universally during the height of the manifestations of last year were "exaggerated." "Developments during recent months," he stated, "have shown that the German people as a whole do not condone anti-Semitism."

Meanwhile, a local court here this weekend freed Paul Josef Schoenen, one of the two men who had been convicted of last year's synagogue desecration. He had been re-arrested on suspicion of having committed another atrocity of the same type. Schoenen, who had served ten months in jail for the Christmas Eve desecration of 1959, was arrested again last week when some fresh swastika-smearings were discovered in Cologne. The court ruled, however, that the witnesses who testified against him on the new charge were themselves "untrustworthy."

AMBASSADOR HARMAN LEFT FOR ISRAEL TO ATTEND ZIONIST CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman left Washington last night for Jerusalem, to participate in the deliberations of the 25th World Zionist Congress. He is a life-long active Zionist and was a member of the Jewish Agency executive, a position which he resigned from when he was nominated to be Ambassador.

While in Jerusalem Ambassador Harman is expected to consult with the Israeli Government on various political questions. However, Embassy sources here said these consultations are of routine character and the main reason for the Ambassador's visit to Israel is the Zionist Congress.

REBBE OF SADIGORA DIES IN ISRAEL; THOUSANDS FOLLOW COFFIN TO TIBERIAS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Thousands of disciples accompanied the coffin today of Rabbi Abraham Yaacov Friedman, the Tzadik of Sadigora, to Tiberias which had been chosen by the Chassidic leader as his burial place. He died Saturday night at the age of 76.

A founder of the Agudath Israel and one of the leaders of the Council of Sages, The Rebbe of Sadigora arrived in Israel in 1933 and established a court for the thousands of his followers. He is survived only by a brother who will take his place as chief of the Sadigora court.

DR. SALO BARON RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF ACADEMY FOR JEWISH RESEARCH

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Dr. Salo W. Baron, professor of Jewish history at Columbia University and at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, was yesterday re-elected president of the American Academy for Jewish Research at the organization's annual meeting here.

ISRAELI SHIP REACHES GUATEMALA FOR FIRST TIME; MONTHLY SAILINGS PLANNED

GUATEMALA CITY, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- An Israeli freighter, the SS Yehuda, weighed anchor in Port Champerico today, marking the first time that an Israeli vessel has ever visited this country, and inaugurating a monthly service by ships belonging to the Zim Lines. Israel Ambassador Joshua Shai and members of the Embassy staff were on hand to greet the freighter.