



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXIX - 44th year

Thursday, May 10, 1962

No. 91

KENNEDY HAILS ISRAEL'S 'DEMOCRACY' AS CAPITAL OBSERVES 14TH ANNIVERSARY

WASHINGTON, May 9. (JTA) -- With a special Israel Independence Day message from President Kennedy, a resolution in the House of Representatives signed by 180 Congressmen belonging to both major parties, formal speeches at the Capitol, and a luncheon attended by many diplomats as well as Republican and Democratic dignitaries, Washington today celebrated the rebirth of modern Israel, 14 years ago. The President's message, sent to New York's Mayor Robert F. Wagner, who presided at special Israel Independence Day ceremonies in the metropolis, stated:

"I understand that, at a City Hall ceremony on May 9, the City of New York will help mark the fourteenth anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. This is an important anniversary--not only as an historical event, but because of the consequences for the cause of freedom. All Americans--whatever their religious faith or traditions--applaud the freedom and democracy which have found expression in Israel. It is fitting that you salute this occasion in this fashion. Please convey to all those who will be participating in the observance at City Hall my very warm greetings and regards."

Bipartisan Resolution Calls for Arab-Israeli Peace, House Speaker Among Signers

The House resolution, hailing Israel on its 14th anniversary as an independent state, and calling on the United States to "be in the vanguard of world opinion pressing for Arab-Israeli peace" was presented to the House of Representatives by Democratic Congressman Emanuel Celler, of New York. The measure carried the endorsement of 180 other members of both political parties from every area of the nation.

The resolution, which noted that "the people of Israel are still denied the blessings of peace," and that they must "continue to adjust themselves to a state of belligerence on the part of their neighbors," touched off a round of tributes on Capitol Hill in commemoration of the event. The measure lauded Israel for its great progress in rehabilitating the land, developing its economy, encouraging cultural, artistic and scientific pursuits in the face of a series of adversities, and providing a "sanctuary for more than a million refugees and immigrants."

Eleven members joined Mr. Celler in introducing and circulating the petition among their House colleagues. They were Democrats Wayne Hays of Ohio and Leonard Farbstein, Edna Kelly, Abraham Multer and John Rooney, all of New York; and Republicans Joseph Martin--former Speaker of the House--and Laurence Curtis, both of Massachusetts; James Fulton of Pennsylvania; Horace Seely-Brown of Connecticut; and Seymour Halpern and Jessica Weis of New York. Among the signatories were House Speaker John McCormack, of Massachusetts, and Democratic Congressman Thomas Morgan, of Pennsylvania, chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The resolution expressed the hope "that the Administration will pursue a policy, both within and without the United Nations, which firmly rejects all forms of aggression, and which will make it clear to all Governments in the Middle East that we do not condone aggression and that we persist in the search for peace as the major goal of American policy in the region."

Diplomats, Other Dignitaries, Hear Praise of Israel's Technical Proficiency

At another of the capital's major Israel Independence Day events, at which former Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland, a Republican, presided, Israel was lauded for having "triggered" a chain reaction in international cooperation by "doing for others what the people of America did for the Israelis." That praise came from Bruce W. McDaniel, first director of the United States Technical Assistance Mission to Israel in 1951.

More than 300 members of the America-Israel Society, headed by former Gov. McKeldin, attended the luncheon, as well as members of the diplomatic corps, U.S. Government officials, members of Congress and other dignitaries. The society was established under the Eisenhower Administration in 1954 to strengthen cultural relations between the United States and Israel.

Mr. McDaniel paid tribute to Israel's technical ability and its rapid conversion of American-supplied aid to useful production. He declared:

"There was no need for crash programs in Israel. The Israelis understood the need to build from the bottom, soundly, and realized that they would have to eat less, work harder and wait until the newly planted citrus, olives and carob trees could bear, the dams and reservoirs could be built, the water developed for irrigation--and by mutual insistence. There

were strings on every project, specific plans to make certain that time, manpower and resources were used only for indispensable, deliberated schemes, which could be understood and completed."

In another luncheon address, Mordecai Gazit, Israel Charge d'Affaires, in the absence of Ambassador Avraham Harman, who is currently in Israel, expressed his nation's gratitude for United States aid.

ISRAEL SHOWS ITS ARMED MIGHT AT TEL AVIV PARADE AS 20,000 TOURISTS CHEER

TEL AVIV, May 9. (JTA) -- A half-million rain-soaked viewers, including 20,000 cheering tourists, watched Israel's annual Independence Day parade today. The first downpour ever to hit the parade forced cancelation of part of a scheduled Air Force fly-past which was to have taken place before the first units of the ground parade began their march. The Air Force substituted a flight of jets forming the number "14" and two helicopters displaying Israel's national flag for the parade opener.

President Izhak Ben-Zvi, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, Chief of Staff Zvi Tzur and President Leon M'ba of Gabon and Moshe Sharet, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive were among the dignitaries on the reviewing stand who took the salute of the passing units. The viewers, many of them in light summer clothes, were soaked quickly when the rain came pelting down, but few left their viewing spots.

Twenty-nine heavy Centurion tanks rumbled down the parade lane, followed by light and medium Sherman tanks. Fifty armored vehicles roared and ploughed along the asphalt road. An armored infantry unit was the final display in the lead armored units. Then came the artillery. French guided anti-tank missiles and United States five-milimeter recoilless guns headed that section of the parade. Field artillery pieces followed including 25-pound guns, self-propelled 155-milimeter weapons, and heavy anti-aircraft guns.

When the infantry column approached the reviewing stand, the rain stopped and the skies cleared somewhat. Unit after unit of steel-helmeted khaki-clad troops marched along, followed by Air Force members in grey and Navy personnel in snow-white uniforms. Flowers were tossed at the girl marchers--the smartest marchers as usual. The infantry column included a unit of Druze and Bedouin tribesmen, border police, civil police, youth battalions, engineering and communication units, and two units of crack paratroopers.

Independence Day celebrations got underway last night. In cool weather, Israelis celebrated Independence Day in family gatherings and parties which did not break up until dawn. Many went directly from such celebrations to the parade site.

Haifa had a parade of folk dancers who pranced through the main streets, sweeping thousands of spectators into their parade. The Navy set up open house on its moored ships for children of Haifa. Beersheba had a children's parade.

TRUMAN URGES U. S. A. TO USE INFLUENCE FOR PEACE BETWEEN ARABS, ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 9. (JTA) -- Former President Harry S. Truman tonight called for "a firm" United States policy "to use its influence" to bring about a settlement of the conflict between the Arab states and Israel. At the same meeting addressed by Mr. Truman, Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council coordinating body of all Zionist organizations in the country, criticized the State Department's policy toward Israel "as revealed in the American support of the recent United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israel, and in the contemplated loan to Egypt's Colonel Nasser, who continues to bar Israel's shipping from the Suez Canal."

Mr. Truman and Rabbi Miller spoke at an American Jewish National Fund rally at the Hunter College auditorium, here. The function had a threefold purpose: It honored Mr. Truman as the first world statesman to recognize Israel, when the Jewish State was reborn 14 years ago; celebrated Israel's Independence Day; and marked the 60th anniversary of the organization that sponsored the event, the JNF. A feature of the evening was a violin recital by Mischa Elman.

In his address, Mr. Truman took note of American aid to the Arab states, and said: "Since World War II, we have supplied the Arab states with technical assistance and economic aid. We strongly believe that they should grow in strength and stability, and we have shown that we are willing to help them to do it. I am glad that people of our country are continuing to assist the Jewish Homeland and to help the victims of persecution to settle there." He continued:

"I recall that, a few days after I took office as President, in April 1945, Rabbi Stephen Wise came to see me in the White House to talk about the plight of the Jews in Europe and about the work that was then going forward to save them and the need of a Jewish Homeland in which they might be sheltered. I was for a Jewish Homeland then, and I am for it now. I could foresee difficulties in the way of establishing that Homeland, but no difficulty was as great as the moral disgrace of failing to establish it."

"Our nation," said the former President, "has a duty, an obligation, to use its influence to bring about a settlement of this conflict" between the Arab states and Israel. "I hope that our policy will be firm on this point."

Rabbi Miller referred to Mr. Truman's recognition of Israel, and stated: "However, this manifestation of friendship to Israel has not been at the expense of one or all of the

states. On the contrary, United States economic assistance to the Arab states has been increasing from year to year in the form of loans, grants and technical assistance. Indeed, at this very moment, we are receiving reports of massive aid now being offered our country to the United Arab Republic. We have always favored such assistance to the Middle East, in order to raise the standard of living of all the people and promote stability and peace within that area.

Miller Points to Arab Blockade, Suez Canal; Ben-Zvi, Ben-Gurion Extol J. N. F.

"Under the circumstances we find it difficult to understand why our Government finds it difficult under the necessity from time to time of muting its voice against the continued economic blockade and boycott of Israel, against the failure of the UAR to open the Suez Canal to free navigation, and, above all, against the insistence by the Arab states that a state of belligerency still obtains between them and Israel. The recent action of our Government in the Security Council illustrates this tendency to seek the goodwill of the Arab countries even at the expense of the undeserved censure of Israel."

Dr. Harris J. Levine, honorary president of the JNF, presented to Mr. Truman a silver receptacle engraved with his historic White House message, recognizing Israel in 1948. Messages were read from Israel's President Izhak Ben-Zvi and Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, lauding Mr. Truman and extolling the high value of the JNF's land reclamation and afforestation work in Israel.

The message from the Israeli leader had been addressed to Albert Schiff, JNF president. An address in the same vein was delivered by Michael S. Comay, Israel's permanent representative at the United Nations. Abraham Feinberg, as chairman of the evening, paid tribute to both Mr. Truman and Mr. Ben-Gurion as "the two outstanding men of our time." He affirmed that "Jewish history will enshrine both of them as the greatest benefactors of the Jewish people and humanity."

At a separate Israel Independence Day celebration this afternoon, the American Zionist Council held a reception at the Jewish Agency building, attended by prominent Zionist leaders. Among them were:

Dr. Miriam Freund, chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Zionist Council, who presided at the meeting; Mrs. Siegfried Kramarsky, president of Hadassah, women's Zionist organization of America; Mrs. Dorothy Bernstein, president of Hapoel Hamizrachi Women; Mrs. Clara Leff, president, Pioneer Women; Mrs. Joseph Dyckman, president of Mizrachi Women, and Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, former member of the Executive Committee of the American Zionist Council. Greetings were also extended by Bernard Kabak, president of the Student Zionist Organization.

WAGNER PROCLAIMS ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY AT CITY HALL; CALLS FOR PEACE

NEW YORK, May 9. (JTA) -- Before a capacity audience of more than 1,000 persons in the New York City Council chamber, with a large, overflow crowd jamming City Hall Plaza, Mayor Robert F. Wagner today formally proclaimed the municipality's official observance of Israel Independence Day. He read a special message, hailing Israel's anniversary, from President Kennedy. Israel's Consul-General Aryeh Eshel read another message, from his Government's Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion.

Thanking Mayor Wagner for New York's participation "in our festivity," which he saw "of special significance" to Israel, Mr. Ben-Gurion declared in his message: "Israel, gaged as it is in the great drama of molding its citizens, old and young, native-born and immigrant, into a united people, and rebuilding a desolate land, and in continuing the task involved in strengthening itself for peace and security, derives much inspiration and encouragement from the support of the people of your city."

Mr. Wagner, prior to issuing the formal proclamation of the city's Israel Independence Day observance, said that every effort should be made by the United States "to help overcome the hostility which Israel's neighbors have continued to show against Israel from the day Israel was established. Only if there is peace in the Middle East will Israel and all the countries in that part of the world be able to forge ahead, in cooperative ways."

"The first condition of peace must be the recognition by the Arab peoples and their governments that Israel is not only here to stay but is destined to thrive and prosper and will always have our help in doing so," the Mayor declared. He added that the "true enemies of the Arab peoples was not Israel "but hunger, disease, ignorance, poverty and lack of water. These enemies can be overcome by the joint efforts of Israelis and Arabs."

The Mayor noted former President Truman's recognition of Israel, in 1948, declaring that the act was "to the credit of President Truman, and America's credit, and to the benefit of the cause of freedom and democracy in the Middle East." He pointed to Israel's "political stability" as "the rare exception" in the area, calling attention to the recent upheavals in many of the countries adjacent to Israel.

Clergymen of all three faiths took part in the City Hall celebration. Rabbi Israel Mowitz, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, delivered the invocation. Prayers were read by the Rev. Dan M. Potter, executive director of the Protestant Council of the City of New York; and Msgr. George A. Kelly, of the Catholic Archdiocese of New York.

RUSSIAN ACADEMICIAN CONCEDES SOVIETS CONVICTED JEWS FOR 'CRIMES'

NEW YORK, May 9. (JTA) -- A corresponding member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences at Moscow admitted today that Jews were among the Soviet citizens recently convicted for "economic crimes," but insisted that the convicted persons "justly received their deserts under a court sentence."

The statements were made in a letter to the New York Times, dated Moscow, signed by Mikhail Strogovich, who identified himself as a corresponding member of the Academy in Moscow. He responded to a letter printed by the Times nearly two months ago, from the Rev. Dr. James A. Pike, Episcopal Bishop of the California Diocese, who had charged the Soviet Union with persecuting Jews. Bishop Pike had reported that at least 13 Soviet citizens recently sentenced to death for "economic crimes" were Jews.

Objecting to "sundry slanderous articles about the life of Jews in the Soviet Union," Mr. Strogovich insisted in his letter that the USSR guarantees the equality of all citizens, pointed out that "outstanding Jews" have been elected "as deputies to supreme and local organs of state power," and stated:

"The conviction of a small group of state criminals--large-scale pilferers of public property who justly received their deserts under a court sentence--among whom there were different nationalities including Jews--gives no ground to draw unwarranted conclusions as to the supposed widespread character of these crimes in the USSR.

WORKMEN'S CIRCLE RAPS BOTH GERMANY FOR TOLERATING FORMER NAZIS

ATLANTIC CITY, May 9. (JTA) -- A resolution condemning both West Germany and East Germany for "failure to root out the remnants of Nazism," was adopted here today at the concluding session of the 62nd annual convention of the Workmen's Circle, national Jewish fraternal and cultural organization. While condemning both Germany's however, the resolution pointed out that, in Communist East Germany, there has been no denazification program, and that "former Hitler lieutenants" hold high office in East Germany where "Communist authorities have no trouble in reaching accommodation" with the ex-Nazis."

The Workmen's Circle was lauded at this morning's final session by Benjamin Stickney, an official of the United States Information Agency, who presented a "distinguished service" award to the organization for its participation in the USIA program of furnishing books to underdeveloped countries. More than 1,000,000 American books have been sent by the USIA to African and Asian countries as a result of a special drive conducted by the Workmen's Circle throughout the United States.

NEW YORK MAYOR SUPPORTS 'RELEASED TIME' PROGRAM OPPOSED BY MANY JEWS

NEW YORK, May 9. (JTA) -- The New York City school system's program of released time for religious instruction was lauded by Mayor Robert F. Wagner last night as a factor which has helped to strengthen the nonsectarian schools. The released time program, under which some 100,000 children are excused from classes for one hour a week for religious instruction in institutions of their own faith outside the schools, has been opposed by many Jewish organizations on the grounds that it violates the principle of church-state separation.

Mayor Wagner lauded the program at a dinner marking the 20th anniversary of the Coordinating Committee on Released Time of Jews, Protestants and Roman Catholics. Former Senator Herbert H. Lehman, who signed the released time bill into law, when he was Governor of New York State in 1940, also addressed the dinner.

JEWS CEMETERY IN PHILADELPHIA DESECRATED, 55 TOMBSTONES OVERTURNED

PHILADELPHIA, May 9. (JTA) -- The Adath Jeshurun cemetery, in the Frankford section of Philadelphia, was desecrated by vandals who overturned 55 gravestones, breaking or darraging eight of the markers, police here reported today.

Walter Hand, superintendent of the cemetery, who lives at the edge of the burial grounds, discovered the desecrations and informed police. While the police authorities suspect juvenile vandals, detectives said that some of the stones were so heavy--weighing as much as 1,200 pounds--that it must have taken a group of people, perhaps using ropes, to overturn the stones.

RABBI KAHANE, ISRAEL'S DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, HONORED IN N.Y.

NEW YORK, May 9. (JTA) -- Rabbi Kalman Kahane, Israel's Deputy Minister of Education, member of the Knesset, and president of the Poalei Agudat Israel Party, was given a reception here today by leaders of the movement in the United States. The ultra-Orthodox Poalei Agudat Israel is a worker's party with two seats in the Knesset (Parliament) and is a member of the Mapai-led Israel Government coalition.

DR. ALAN W. MILLER TAKES OVER RABBINATE OF RECONSTRUCTIONIST SYNAGOGUE

NEW YORK, May 9. (JTA)-- Dr. Alan W. Miller, former rabbi of the South West Essex Reform Synagogue in London, took over the post of rabbi of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism here today. The synagogue is the founding house of worship of the Jewish Reconstructionist movement, established in 192 by Professor Mordecai M. Kaplan.