



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXIX - 44th year

Thursday, May 17, 1962

No. 96

ISRAEL PRODUCTION, EMPLOYMENT UP; BUT COST OF LIVING ALSO RISES

JERUSALEM, May 16. (JTA) -- Israel's production and employment have risen steadily since the devaluation of Israel's pound last February 9, and the absorption of immigrants has proceeded without difficulties, Finance Minister Levi Eshkol declared today in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament. At the same time, it was announced that the cost of living rose in April by 2.1 points. The rise in the index, now at 120.3, was occasioned by higher prices for fruit, vegetables and poultry.

Outlining the Government's new economic policy, the Finance Minister said that devaluation had already resulted in more tourists. He said there has been a greater interest in investments and in the purchase of Israeli stocks. Mr. Eshkol said that, to maintain price levels in relation to the devalued currency, the Government had abolished customs levies on 42 percent of dutiable imports. To combat inflation, recipients of restitution funds have been induced to leave the money in banks through an increase in interest to seven percent.

The Finance Minister said officially that there would be a forced loan and declared this would neutralize the injection of new money from cost-of-living allowance increases to be provided in July. He also said that the construction of public buildings would be slowed down by the need for additional housing for immigrants.

Foreign Currency Balance Higher; Forced Savings Plan Detailed

One positive result of the devaluation had been a rise in the foreign currency balance, Mr. Eshkol told Parliament. He said the total was expected to be between \$120,000,000 and \$140,000,000 this year. He also said that the increased money supply of some 200,000,000 pounds (\$66,000,000), resulting from more foreign exchange and the added salary bill of the cost-of-living increases, constituted a threat of greater demand. He added that the forced savings and new inducements for voluntary savings were expected to soak up the surplus in purchasing power. He stated:

"We are determined to put an end to all absolute protection of local manufacturers made possible by the present ban on competitive imports, and to change the system of protection by customs duties which will be progressively reduced." Factories will have to increase worker productivity and improve their products to compete, he said.

He issued a warning that the people must exercise self-control and refrain from raising their living standards for a few years, to make the new economic policy work. Increased savings, he added, was "a must."

He revealed some details of the forthcoming compulsory savings proposal. The plan calls for providing a ceiling of 40 pounds (\$13.00) monthly to be deducted from salaries of more than 925 pounds (\$300.00). Exemptions from the compulsory savings will apply to persons with incomes of less than 250 pounds (\$83.00) a month. He indicated that 5,000,000 pounds (\$21,600,000) to 70,000,000 pounds (\$23,000,000) was expected from the forced savings by the end of March 1963. Debate is expected to be completed on the Eshkol report within next week's session.

ISRAEL IMMIGRATION IN MAY AT RECORD HIGH, FURTHER INCREASES FORESEEN

JERUSALEM, May 16. (JTA) -- The number of immigrants to Israel will reach a record figure for May for recent years, S. Z. Shragai, director of the Jewish Agency immigration department, reported here today. He did not give any totals for the month. He said increased immigration was expected to continue, with the result that many centers of Jewry outside of Israel would disappear in a few years.

He noted that immigration from countries undergoing social and economic upheavals had not been high. Only 450 Jews have come from Cuba, and only 70 from the Belgian Congo. Mr. Shragai reported that some 1,500 Jews came from South Africa during the last 18 months, and that the last 300 Jews from China will be arriving at the end of this month. He disclosed that since the last Zionist Congress in 1960, 54 Zionist leaders came to settle in Israel from South Africa, Britain, North Africa and the United States.

B'NAI B'RITH HITS RUSSIA, 'DEPLORES' U.N. ACTION, RE-ELECTS KATZ

WASHINGTON, May 16. (JTA) -- The B'nai B'rith concluded its five-day, triennial convention here today by adopting resolutions criticizing the Soviet Union for its treatment of Jews, and "deploring" the recent United Nations Security Council censure of Israel.

The convention also elected its top officers. Label A. Katz, of New Orleans, 43, youngest leader ever to head the organization in its 119-year-old history, was re-elected President by acclamation. He will serve for the next three years.

The resolution concerning the situation of the Jews in the USSR called upon the Soviet Union's Government to end its "discriminatory practices toward the Jewish religion and Jewish culture." Noting that, since 1948, the Soviet authorities have eliminated "all Jewish cultural activities, except for a recently established, bi-monthly magazine of limited circulation," the resolution requested the Soviet Government "to fulfill its own constitutional provisions concerning freedom of worship and the rights of nationalities."

In regard to the UN, the other major resolution described the anti-Israeli censure measure of last month as "less than even-handed," in that it failed to condemn Syria "for the provocations to which Israel had responded." The effect of the Security Council action, B'nai B'rith held, was "to weaken the United Nations in its ability to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli situation." The resolution requested both the United States Government and the United Nations "to use their good offices to bring about direct peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab states."

Special Project to Aid Sephardi Education in Israel; Praised by Ben-Gurion

In another development at today's wind-up session, the 1,200 convention delegates adopted a scholarship aid program for expanded opportunities for secondary education among Israeli youth. The project is designed "to encourage high school study, particularly among Sephardi youth, and to assist the amalgamation of Israel's disparate population." Israel currently provides free, compulsory education only through the primary grades. The scholarships will be for \$300 a year each, about equal to tuition and other costs in Israeli secondary schools. The number of scholarships to be awarded annually will be determined by the amount of funds raised by the organization beyond its present fund-raising programs.

In an appeal to the convention for support of the program, Morris Alexander, of Chicago, chairman of B'nai B'rith's Israel Commission, said that Israel's financial burdens, caused by heavy expenditures for defense, immigration and economic development, "mean there is no prospect for free public secondary schools for at least another generation." Joining that appeal, Mr. Katz told the convention that "the lack of secondary education is particularly acute among children of Sephardi families, a result of the radical adjustment the Sephardi immigrant must make to acclimate to his new life in a modern western civilization."

Mr. Katz read a letter from Israel Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion condemning B'nai B'rith for considering the scholarship program. Mr. Ben-Gurion stated that, because the Sephardi "generally lacks the training and technical skills that fit into an industrialized society, he is restricted to unskilled employment and generally unable to finance the cost of secondary education for his children. The Israel leader declared that Israel school attendance figures show that 55 percent of the primary grade enrollment is Sephardi, but that Sephardi enrollment falls to 27 percent in general and technical secondary schools, and to about seven percent in institutions of higher learning. The Israeli Premier said that, "apart from the physical security of our state, Israel has no problem more urgent or critical" than that "of widening the possibilities of secondary education."

HOUSE UNIT QUIZZES TOP STATE DEPT. OFFICIALS ON MIDDLE EAST, ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, May 16. (JTA) -- Two members of the Administration's foreign policy-making team faced a barrage of Congressional questions today on United States Middle East policy. But because the session of the Near East Subcommittee of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs was held behind closed doors, no specific details of the almost two-hour hearing could be obtained.

However, a source said that the two witnesses, Phillips Talbot, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, and Harlan Cleveland, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, underwent a "thorough exploration of the actions of the United States delegation to the United Nations with respect to the Middle East." The source said a number of questions of "vital interest to Israel's security" were also raised.

PERES SEES U THANT, RALPH BUNCHE; SCHEDULED TO VISIT WASHINGTON

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., May 16. (JTA) -- Shimon Peres, Israel's Deputy Minister of Defense, visited Acting Secretary-General U Thant here today, spending 40 minutes with the UN Chief. Yesterday, Mr. Peres spent an equal amount of time here with Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Undersecretary for Special Political Affairs. He was accompanied on both visits by Michael S. Comay, Israel's permanent representative here, and Yaacov Shapira, head of the Israeli Defense Ministry's purchasing mission in the United States. Mr. Peres has known both Mr. Thant and Dr. Bunche for a number of years. The Israeli Defense Ministry deputy is visiting this country on behalf of the Israel Bond Organization after completing a Latin American tour for the same purpose. He is expected to visit Washington next week.

HAUSNER 'FAN MAIL' ON EICHMANN TRIAL RUNS RANGE FROM HATE TO FLOWERS

WASHINGTON, May 16. (JTA) -- A residue of hatred for Jews still remains in Germany, Israel Attorney General Gideon Hausner implied at a news conference here today. The chief prosecutor of the Adolf Eichmann trial, here for the major address to the B'nai B'rith triennial convention last night, told reporters that he continues to receive "quite a fan mail" from German citizens. The letters, he said, range the full scale of emotions and opinions from those who say they were unaware of Hitler's reign of terror against Jews and are now ashamed of those actions, to those who vilify him personally, as well as all Jews.

He quoted an excerpt from a letter, which said that a monument to Hitler should be erected "because he at least tried to exterminate the Jews." The writer of that letter also expressed the hope that "Nasser will finish the job." But among his other correspondents, Mr. Hausner said, was a West German woman who sent him white roses on a regular monthly basis with the explanation that she "realized I was carrying a great burden and would like to do something for us." He said he has also received a volume of mail from the United States, the overwhelming majority of which was "warm and friendly."

NAZI ADMITS HEADING MURDER UNIT THAT KILLED 11,000 RUSSIAN JEWS

BERLIN, May 16. (JTA) -- Albert Filbert, a former Nazi SS officer on trial for his part in the murder of at least 11,000 Russian Jews, when he headed a Nazi einsatzkommando operating in the German-occupied areas of Russia in 1941, admitted here today that he had volunteered to command the unit during the German invasion of Russia. He told the court, however, that, had he known beforehand what the job was, he would have arranged for a trustworthy doctor to make him unfit. He told the court his brother had died in one of Hitler's concentration camps.

Filbert, who faces a possible life imprisonment sentence, was arrested after a three-year investigation which also led to the arrest of five other SS men who took part in the killings. The latter five, charged with aiding and abetting the murders, face lesser terms.

GOLDMANN MEETS ADENAUER TODAY, SEEKS NEW AID EXCEEDING \$1 BILLION

BONN, May 16. (JTA) -- A second round of high-level conferences will open here tomorrow between Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and other West German Cabinet members and political party officials, concerning the drafting of the Government's final law on indemnification and restitution for victims of Nazism.

Dr. Goldmann talked for several days here in January with the Chancellor, Dr. Heinz Starke, Minister of Finance, and other leaders, regarding the new law to replace the indemnification and restitution act of 1952, expiring this year. The talks were inconclusive chiefly because, at that time, Dr. Starke, as a new member of the Cabinet, was not yet fully acquainted with the problems involved. He was also busy at the time preparing his first budget for the fiscal year 1962-63.

The principal issue being advanced by Dr. Goldmann involves the setting up of new categories of German aid recipients, affecting Jews from countries behind the Iron Curtain who could not emerge into the free world until after the cut-off date of October 1, 1953, fixed under the old law. These, according to a statement by Dr. Goldmann, include "tens of thousands" of Jews from Poland, Hungary, Rumania, and some who had spent the war years and the period following the war in refuge in Siberia. Adding these Jewish refugees to the German indemnification and restitution categories will, it is understood, involve additional West German Government expenditures exceeding \$1,000,000,000.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND MISSIONARIES SEE JEWS AS MORE FRIENDLY NOW

LONDON, May 16. (JTA) -- A Jewish Mission committee report of the Church of Scotland declared today that Christianity was no longer considered by Jews to be the arch-enemy of the Jewish religion.

The report, which will be presented next week before the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, stated also that the intense antagonism of Jews toward representatives of the Christian churches "has obviously abated, and the centuries-old wall of separation between Jews and Christians is not nearly as strong as it was in the former European ghettos."

OP BRAZIL LEADERS CALL FOR CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 16. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Tancredo Neves and Foreign Minister Santiago Danta made statements here today highly laudatory of Israel's achievements, and proclaimed Brazil's determination to tighten still further the ties between the Brazilian Government and people of Israel.

Mr. Danta made his statement prior to departure for Israel where, he said, he will attempt to work out "the practical details" for the implementation of the recently concluded Israeli-Brazilian pact under which Israel will aid Brazil in development projects in Northeast Brazil. The Prime Minister spoke at a rally celebrating the 14th anniversary of Israel's independence, conducted by the Israel Bond Organization. "The brotherhood between Brazil and Israel," said Senor Neves, "expresses itself through the very close ties between these two democratic countries. Israel is a stimulating factor for the progress of Brazil."

SUPREME COURT GETS SECOND PETITION ON COMPULSORY PRAYER IN SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, May 16. (JTA) -- The United States Supreme Court has been asked for the second time in its current session to rule on the constitutionality of a local public school board regulation--this one in Maryland--requiring a daily prayer as part of the classroom opening exercise.

The High Tribunal was petitioned yesterday to rule on a decision handed down last month by the Maryland Court of Appeals, upholding the Baltimore School Board's Bible-reading requirement. The Maryland court ruled four to three that the exercise, which also includes recitation of the Lord's Prayer, did not violate the constitution.

A spokesman for the Supreme Court said today that it was "possible" the Maryland case could be heard before the close of the current term, slated for late June. He also said that the New York State school board case, on which the Supreme Court is now preparing a decision, "would not necessarily" affect the Court's decision to hear the Maryland case. The New York case, on which oral arguments were presented last month, involves a 22-word prayer which advocates contend is non-sectarian.

'AMERICAN JEWISH PRESS WEEK' TO BE LAUNCHED AT ANNUAL CONVENTION

NEW YORK, May 16. (JTA) -- The first annual observance of "American Jewish Press Week" will be launched by the American Jewish Press Association at its annual convention in New York on May 24-25. Joseph G. Weisberg, editor of the Boston Jewish Advocate and president of the press group, announced today.

The week-long observance will mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the press association, an organization embracing leading American Jewish weekly newspapers. A symposium on the role and future of the American Jewish press will be held at a luncheon at the Overseas Press Club. Some 30 newspaper executives are expected to attend.

In a statement welcoming the observance of American Jewish Press Week, Ambassador Philip M. Klutznick took note of recent discussion of a trend to community ownership of the American Jewish press and declared: "Recent observations by a very distinguished American Jewish historian suggesting the ultimate transformation of the American Jewish press into community organs do not fit my vision of the future. We need a free and independent press in our community, no less than a free nation needs a free press," to the role of the American Jewish press were voiced also by many other leaders of the Jewish community.

JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL PICKS OUTSTANDING WORKS OF 1961 JEWISH LITERATURE

NEW YORK, May 16. (JTA) -- The Harry and Ethel Daroff Memorial Fiction Award for the outstanding work of fiction of Jewish interest published in 1961 was won by Samuel Yellen's novel, "Wedding Band," published by Atheneum. The \$250 award, presented by Joseph Daroff of Philadelphia, was one of five made by the Jewish Book Council of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

The \$250 Isaac Siegal Memorial Juvenile Award, for the best Jewish juvenile book published in English in 1961 was won by Sadie Rose Weilersteins "Ten and a Kid," published by Doubleday. The \$100 Florence and Henry Kovner Memorial Awards for the best 1961 works of Jewish poetry in English, Hebrew and Yiddish went, respectively to Irving Feldman for his "Work and Days and Other Poems," published by Little, Brown; to Gabriel Preil for "Mapat Erev," published by Dvir; and to Israel Emiot for "In Nigun Eingehart."

Rabbi Gilbert Klapperman of Lawrence, L.I., was elected president of the Jewish Book Council, succeeding Dr. A. Alan Steinbach.

ELEVEN NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FORM U.S. SECTION OF W. J. C.

NEW YORK, May 16. (JTA) -- The establishment of an American section of the World Jewish Congress was announced here today by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the WJC. Initially it will consist of eleven national Jewish organizations. The new section, Dr. Goldmann said, "will fill a great gap" in the structure of the World Jewish Congress. Its task will be to "help protect the rights and positions of Jewish communities all over the world, and to encourage and strengthen Jewish cultural activities so that the future of these communities may be safeguarded."

The organizations that have thus far announced their affiliation with the new section are: the American Jewish Congress; Americans for Progressive Israel; Farhard - Labor Zionist Order; Federation for Labor Israel (Histadrut); Labor Zionist Organization of America; Mizrahi - Hapoel Hainizrahi; the Mizrahi Women's Organization of America; Pioneer Women; Poale Agudath Israel of America; Zionist Organization of America; and the United Zionists-Revisionists of America.

HERBERT G. LUFT, J.T.A. FILM CORRESPONDENT, ELECTED IN HOLLYWOOD

HOLLYWOOD, May 16. (JTA) -- Herbert G. Luft, for more than six years Hollywood columnist for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, was elected last night as Secretary for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. Mr. Luft, an internationally recognized authority on the cinema, is also connected with the Hollywood Motion Picture Museum.