



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

Monday, August 13, 1962

No. 155

ISRAEL TO SUSPEND FLIGHTS TO LONDON UNTIL SOBLEN CASE IS SETTLED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- The Israel Government today suspended all flights by El Al Israel Airlines to London, until the matter of flying Dr. Robert A. Soblen from London to New York is resolved. The decision was voted unanimously by Israel's Cabinet, at a special meeting.

The Cabinet move, in effect, superseded an earlier decision adopted by the body, which had ordered that, if Britain insisted that El Al remove Dr. Soblen from England, the fugitive psychiatrist must be flown by El Al to Israel only -- and not to New York, as Britain had demanded.

A spokesman for El Al here said today that, if a proposal in the American Congress for banning El Al flights to the United States were enacted, such sanctions would violate the international civil aviation agreement. "In order to abrogate the air agreement and landing rights of a national carrier," the spokesman said, "either party to the agreement must give 12 months' notice." Any other action, he declared, would amount to a breach of contract.

Ben-Gurion Explains Israel's Stand to U. S. Jewish Leaders

Meanwhile, it was learned here, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion has replied to a number of American Jewish leaders, who had requested that Israel fly Dr. Soblen to New York, by reiterating that Israel was not in position to flout its own laws. He stressed that a spokesman for the U. S. Department of State had said, on June 28, that the United States was not asking Israel to violate its own laws by returning Dr. Soblen.

"Our attitude toward Soblen," Mr. Ben-Gurion stated in his reply to the American Jewish leaders, "is no different than yours. Already in early July, I told Israel's Parliament that Soblen was expelled because he had entered Israel fraudulently, and that our Law of Return does not apply to a criminal of this category."

There are two reasons why Israel cannot extradite Dr. Soblen to the United States, Mr. Ben-Gurion's letter pointed out. First, the proposed Israel-American extradition treaty has not yet been ratified. Secondly, even if the treaty were in effect, it would not provide for extradition of a political prisoner -- and Dr. Soblen's crime of espionage is a political crime.

British Pressure on Israel Seen Removed Temporarily

LONDON, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- British pressure on Israel to take out Dr. Robert Soblen, the fugitive from a life sentence in the U. S. for espionage for Soviet Russia, from London on an El Al plane to New York seemed to have been removed, at least temporarily, with the announcement by the British Government last night that the Home Office has officially ordered Soblen's deportation.

Under this order, Soblen can now be deported from England on any plane flying to the United States. Dr. Soblen, who is still in Brixton Prison here, was removed with the deportation order last night. However, the Home Office indicated "he will not be leaving immediately" and that it will take at least "several days" before he would be deported.

Soblen's lawyers indicated today that they will bring the deportation case for hearing before the high court, since the Government cannot extradite from Britain anyone guilty of a crime that is not extraditable. Espionage is not extraditable under the treaty between the United States and Britain. The courts here are now in recess until October, thus Soblen could get a delay of about seven weeks.

The order for Dr. Soblen's deportation was issued after an hour's conference yesterday between U. S. Ambassador David Bruce and Sir Charles Cunningham, permanent undersecretary of the Home Office.

CABINET DISCUSSES ISRAEL'S SECURITY; MORE DEFENSE FUNDS SOUGHT

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- Israel's security situation, in the light of Egypt's new rocketry program, was discussed here today by the Cabinet. An official communique following the Cabinet meeting announced that the session was devoted to the country's security requirements.

Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, who is also Minister of Defense, and Shimon Peres, Deputy Defense Minister, reported to the Cabinet on the latest developments and on the implications of Egypt's launching of rockets. It was assumed here today that both Mr. Ben-Gurion and Mr. Peres had urged on the Cabinet the adoption of supplementary budgets for defense purposes.

FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE ON JEWISH EDUCATION OPENED IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- Five hundred lay and professional Jewish educators from 28 countries, including 150 from the United States, opened the first World Conference on Jewish Education here tonight. The meeting sponsored by the World Conference of Jewish Organizations, a consultative body including the representatives of 10 major Jewish agencies on six continents, will last all this week.

A survey released to the delegates yesterday showed that half of the estimated 1,573,000 Jewish youths of school age in the free countries of the world, outside Israel, receive some kind of formal Jewish education. But in many cases, the study showed, the majority of pupils get no more than the equivalent of third grade or fourth grade Jewish education.

The study showed there are only 163,000 Jewish youths of school age today in the European countries where Jewish education is allowed -- less than 9 per cent of the number of school-age Jewish pupils in Europe in prewar years. In the United States, the figures showed, there are 600,000 pupils. The data showed there are 25,000 Jewish teachers in the world, 17,000 of them in the United States.

BRITAIN CRACKS DOWN ON NAZIS; RAIDS HOMES; CONFISCATES UNIFORMS

LONDON, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- The British Government cracked down on native fascists here this weekend, raiding the headquarters of Colin Jordan's National Socialist movement and searching the homes of individual British Nazi and fascist leaders.

It was the first time such action has been taken since the start of this summer's intensification of racist and anti-Jewish activities, resulting in a series of riotous rallies held both by Jordan's group and the fascist British Union, led by Sir Oswald Mosley.

While Jordan himself looked on, a dozen Scotland Yard plainclothesmen searched his headquarters thoroughly Friday night, going through filing cabinets, removing documents, flags and photographs of Adolf Hitler and Rudolf Hess off the walls, piling up Nazi uniforms and taking from the premises all of the Nazi appurtenances. Crowds gathered outside the headquarters, packed the street in front of the building, shouting "Dirty Nazis, Go Home!"

Meanwhile, other Scotland Yard officers raided the homes of various Nazi and fascist leaders, confiscating other materials found in those homes. All the searches were carried out under an order issued by a judge of the High Court under a section of the Public Order Act of 1936 that prohibits quasi-military organizations.

London Council Asks to Outlaw anti-Semitic Propaganda

At the very time the raids were being carried out, a motion calling upon the British Government to amend the Public Order Act in such a way as to outlaw "incitement to violence by advocates of racial hatred" was passed unanimously by a meeting of the London County Council.

The resolution had been introduced by Sir Isaac Hayward, leader of the County Council, and declared: "The Council, while adhering to principles of free speech, is concerned by the nature of recent disturbances in this country, and requests Her Majesty's Government to consider amending the law so that incitement to violence by persons advocating racial hatred and discrimination may become a criminal offense."

Jordan today sent a letter to Home Secretary Henry Brooke, protesting against the raids and requesting "the immediate return of our property." He announced today that he was planning another meeting in England for the coordination of National Socialism "throughout the world." A Nazi encampment conducted by Jordan at Gloucestershire last week had been attended by a number of foreign Nazis, including George Lincoln Rockwell, leader of the American Nazi Party. Reports here stated that, at that parley, Jordan was "elected" world leader of the Nazis, although Rockwell had presumably, at first, competed for that designation.

U. S. JEWISH GROUPS BLAME KHRUSHCHEV FOR SOVIET ANTI-JEWISH ACTS

NEW YORK, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- The Soviet policy of Jewish "cultural extinction," highlighted during the Stalin regime by the execution of 24 Jewish intellectual leaders just 10 years ago, "remains essentially unaltered" under Khrushchev, a statement issued here today by seven major Jewish organizations charged.

The statement was made public today in commemoration of the mass executions of Soviet Jewish writers, poets and theatre figures, who were executed on August 12, 1952. Those killed included the famous Yiddish writers David Bergelson, Peretz Markish and Itzik Feffer. Previously, Shlomo Mikhoels, head of the prewar Yiddish State Theatre in Moscow, and chairman of the Soviet-sponsored Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, had been assassinated.

Recalling the executions, and the imprisonment and assassination of "hundreds of other leading Jewish writers, actors, scientists and community leaders," the seven-member statement issued today declared that the anti-Jewish persecutions "coincided with the physical liquidation of all Jewish cultural institutions, a process of cultural obliteration to which no other minority in the USSR had been subjected."

"Under Premier Khrushchev," the statement continued, "the policy of cultural extinction remains essentially unaltered. There is no school, nor even a classroom where a Jewish child may learn something of Yiddish or Hebrew language and literature. There does not even exist the opportunity for Jewish parents to have their children instructed in Jewish history and culture through the medium of the Russian language.

Charge Khrushchev with Perpetuating Stalin's Policy

"Official Soviet practice today perpetuates the Stalin policy of depriving Soviet Jewry of continuity with its past and of free expression in the present. Without a past and a present, the future is precarious. The terror is gone, but the policy of extinguishing every spark of Jewish consciousness and identity continues.

"Ten years after their execution, there is no way, except for public apology and full rehabilitation, that reparation can be made to the slain writers. But there is a way for the Soviet government to rectify its crime against Soviet Jewry: To reverse this policy and to restore to Soviet Jews the full right to their own cultural life."

The seven organizations that issued the memorial statement, and the officers who signed the statement, were: Dr. Joachim Prinz, president, American Jewish Congress; Label Katz, president, B'nai B'rith; Adolph Held, national chairman, Jewish Labor Committee; Theodore Brooks, national commander, Jewish War Veterans; Lewis Weinstein, chairman, National Community Relations Advisory Council; Rabbi David Hill, president, National Council of Young Israel; and Rabbi Israel Moshowitz, president, New York Board of Rabbis.

Another statement memorializing the Jewish martyrs of the Stalin era, and pointing out that "the climate for Jewish life, Yiddish writers and Judaism has hardly improved under Khrushchev" was issued today by the national executive office of the Workmen's Circle, which has 560 branches in 31 states. This statement expressed the hope "that the future of Jewish life in Russia be relieved of anti-Semitic repression under Communism, and ultimately achieve the genuine freedom which only a change to democracy can bring."

An editorial in the New York Herald Tribune also condemned the Khrushchev policy of anti-Semitism. "Nikita Khrushchev," stated the editorial, "has denounced many of the barbarisms of Joseph Stalin, but there is one that he has adopted for himself -- anti-Semitism. However intense Khrushchev's anti-Semitic policy may become, it will exorcise neither the mentality nor the continued physical existence of the Jews. He can hope for a solution through a voluntary emigration or assimilation, but never through persecution."

(A dispatch received in London from Moscow this weekend reported that Literaturnaya Gazetta, leading publication of the Soviet Writers Union, has published translations of six Yiddish poems by four Jewish writers, Moisei Teif, Matvei Grubian, Ovsei Driz and Mendel Lifshitz. One of the poems, by Moisei Teif, recalled prewar pogroms in Minsk, linking his childhood fears of anti-Semitism with the present by stating: "I still am trembling when I wander about a non-Jewish quarter.")

Hebrew Congress Appeals to Moscow to Permit Hebrew in Russia

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- A resolution calling on the U. S. S. R. to allow its Jewish community to speak, write and publish literature in Hebrew was adopted here by the third congress of the World Hebrew Union which devoted a special meeting to the present position of Soviet Jewry.

AMERICAN LEGION URGES INTRODUCTION OF VOLUNTARY PRAYERS IN SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- A resolution urging that parents of school children and the children themselves agree on the form of prayers in schools, and ask local school boards to have such prayers recited in classrooms voluntarily, was adopted here yesterday by American Legion's New York State convention.

Such a move, the Legion held, would by-pass the Supreme Court's recent prohibition of the recitation of an officially - sponsored prayer in the schools.

INTEREST IN RELIGION REPORTED MOUNTING AMONG JEWS IN ARGENTINA

NEW YORK, August 12. (JTA) -- The mounting interest in traditional Judaism among the 450,000 Jews of Argentina perceptibly offsets the anxiety created by the recent anti-Semitic outbreaks, according to Rabbi Seymour Siegel who has returned here from a ten-week visit to Buenos Aires under the auspices of the World Council of Synagogues.

Rabbi Siegel, assistant professor of theology at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America here, taught Talmud and theology at the new Latin American Rabbinical Seminary. He reported that a significant indication of the re-awakened interest in traditional Judaism was the opening last March of South America's first rabbinical seminary. The first class, he said, is following a curriculum patterned after the Jewish Theological Seminary's School of Judaica in New York.

"By American 1962 standards this first class, with four students, is tiny; but it is larger than the Jewish Theological Seminary's first class was in 1886," he stressed. "Next year's freshman class is in formation and enrollment is already larger than the present first-year class." Until recently, Rabbi Siegel said, the synagogue as a factor in Jewish life in Argentina was very weak.

COURSES IN HEBREW OPENED IN NEW YORK FOR ORGANIZATION LEADERS

NEW YORK, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- A four-week intensive course in modern conversational Hebrew was opened here for persons in leading positions in Jewish organizations. The course -- in Hebrew called an "Ulpan" -- is conducted by the Department of Education and Culture of the American Zionist Council and the Herzl Institute. Classes are held five mornings a week, three hours each day.

The course is led by Aharon Rosen, lecturer at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and author of several texts for the study of Hebrew. The twenty-two students, all of whom occupy leading posts in various Jewish organizations and institutions, have little or no knowledge of Hebrew. Regular use of the language laboratory is an integral part of the course. In addition to the foregoing intensive course, the Department of Education and Culture is also fostering the study of modern Hebrew in summer camps.

U. S. CONSERVATIVE RABBIS TO HOLD PART OF THEIR CONVENTION IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Assembly will hold part of next year's convention in Jerusalem "to emphasize both the central significance Conservative Jewry places upon Israel as well as the international character of the movement," and to dramatize the fact that post-war America is now "the reservoir of spiritual leadership for world Jewry."

This was announced today by Rabbi Theodore Friedman, president of the Assembly, the international association of Conservative rabbis. The first part of the convention will be held in the U. S. May 5-9 and the second part in Israel during the week of July 14.

"There are indications that U. S. Jewry is now beginning to serve not alone as the source of financial aid and support to Israel and other Jewish communities facing stress throughout the world, but also as the reservoir of spiritual leadership," Rabbi Friedman said. "This latter task, which was so brilliantly fulfilled for several centuries by East European Jewry from which world Jewry drew their rabbis and teachers, has now fallen upon American Jewry."

Rabbi Friedman announced that a new Rabbinical Assembly Region is being established in Israel under the initiative of Rabbi Jack Cohen, formerly of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism in New York and now director of the Hillel Foundation in Jerusalem.

JEW IN BRAZIL PROMOTED TO RANK OF GENERAL; COMMANDS ARMY DIVISION

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- Col. Isaac Nahon, a Jew and a member of the Sephardic community here, was elevated to the rank of general, and placed in command of a division of the Brazilian army. He is 50 years old. The elevation of Col. Nahon to a generalship is the third such promotion for a Jew in the Brazilian army in the last four months.