



# Jewish Telegraphic Agency

## DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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### THOUSANDS GO ON 'WARNING STRIKE' IN ISRAEL AGAINST FREEZING WAGES

TEL AVIV, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Thousands of workers throughout Israel participated today in a one-hour warning strike protesting a Mapai decision in favor of a wage freeze during the coming year in return for a Government pledge not to increase taxes.

No accurate figure could be obtained on the exact number of workers taking part in the warning strike which was backed by Mapam, Herut and the Communists. Leaders of Mapai, the party opposing the strike, claimed that not more than 10,000 to 15,000 persons took part. Mapam and Herut, on the other hand, claimed that nearly 70,000 workers participated in today's stoppage.

Police were alerted to possible clashes at the strike centers but no trouble developed. All strikers returned to their jobs after attending meetings during the workers' idleness.

Yesterday, Aharon Becker, secretary-general of the Histadrut, Israel's labor Federation, warned Mapam that the Histadrut would not yield to the pressures of the strike or of the various "workers' committees" formed to oppose the almost certain decision by the labor federation to agree on a wage freeze.

### JEWISH AGENCY HEARS WARNING ON SEPARATE FUND-RAISING DRIVES IN U.S.

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Separate Jewish fund-raising campaigns in the United States are "seriously interfering" with the United Jewish Appeal's drive in America, Aryeh Pincus, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, warned here today at a meeting of the Agency executive. He returned recently from a visit to the United States.

Urging an "immediate solution" of the problem, Mr. Pincus said that some of the American drives competing with the UJA are being conducted "with approval coming from Israel." He stated that the current UJA drive is facing "difficulties" because UJA campaigners "are unable to divulge full details about the influx of immigration into Israel, thus being unable to provide the full background of the needs."

At the same meeting, Aaron Zisling, head of the Agency's immigrant absorption department, reported that the current housing budget would not meet the needs to be felt during the coming year.

### Jewish Agency Prefers to Hold Zionist Council Session in New York

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency executive and the presidium of the Zionist General Council today decided to hold the forthcoming session of the Council in New York provided the decision received the support of the American members of the executive and Council. The final decision on the matter will thus await a vote by the American leaders, the results of which will be cabled to Jerusalem.

Moshe Sharett, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, who returned here this week from a visit to the United States, is understood to have urged the joint meeting of the presidium and the executive to decide on Jerusalem as the site of the next Council meeting. He noted that the American Zionist Council in New York was in the throes of a reorganization.

(At a press conference in New York last week, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, said that any decision adopted by the joint executive-presidium meeting would be implemented. He pointed out, however, that if it was decided to hold the Council meeting in New York, it might be better to postpone it to a later date because of the reorganization of the American Zionist Council.)

### MOROCCO TO RE-EXAMINE DEATH SENTENCE OF BAHAI MEN; LINKED TO ZIONISM

RABAT, Dec. 24. (JTA) -- The Moroccan Supreme Court of Appeal will re-examine the case of the three Moroccan Arab members of the Bahai faith who were sentenced to death as "heretics," it was announced today. The Moslem Affairs Minister had charged that the Bahai movement "is in league with Zionism," and he accused the three Moroccans of having "worked in the interests of Zionism." The Bahai headquarters are located in Haifa.

Attorneys for the condemned men said today that the case was expected to go before the Appeal Court at the end of January or early in February.

### ISRAEL RESUMES WORK NEAR LAKE TIBERIAS; SYRIANS RE-GROUP FORCES

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Work was resumed without incident this morning at Tel Katzir, the Israeli settlement near Lake Tiberias which was subjected to repeated attacks from Syrian positions before heavy rains interrupted work in the region two weeks ago. The land plowed today included those areas which were set afire by the Syrians in the last incident on December 4.

During the past few days, Syrians were seen re-grouping their forces apparently in preparation for a possible resumption of work in fields on the Israel side. Israel, meanwhile, determined to cultivate those areas and informed the United Nations that it would take all necessary measures should the Syrians interfere.

### KNESSET EXTENDS TAX EXEMPTION FOR APPROVED INVESTMENTS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The Knesset, Israel's Parliament, approved an amendment to the tax law today, extending from the present five-year period to 10 years the exemption from income taxes of approved investments in Israel.

The amendment, designed to encourage capital investments here, also provides other changes advantageous to investors. However, income tax exemptions for new buildings, heretofore free of property levies for five years, were totally abolished by the Knesset.

Another amendment, passed on first reading, against objections by all opposition parties, would authorize income tax assessors to impound lawyers' documents relating to clients. Until now, assessors needed a court order before they could examine such documents. With Agudath Israel absent, the opposition was defeated on its objections by a vote of 34-10. In view of coalition support, the amendment is sure to be adopted when it is passed on second and third readings.

### ISRAEL'S ENVOYS TO WEST EUROPEAN LANDS HOLD PARLEY IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Israel's ambassadors in Western Europe, who arrived here for consultations, met at the Foreign Ministry today to discuss the current negotiations between Israel and the member countries of the European Common Market as well as other subjects of mutual interest to all the envoys.

Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, who participated in the negotiations in Brussels over a possible link between Israel and the Euromart nations, was present at the meeting, which was also attended by Haim Yehil, director-general of the Foreign Ministry.

The envoys participating in the meeting included Arthur Lourie, Israel's Ambassador to London; Walter Eytan, Paris; Maurice Fisher, Rome; Amiel Najjar, Brussels; Hannan Cidor, The Hague; and M. Bartur, Geneva.

Before their return to their posts, the ambassadors will hold consultations with Premier David Ben-Gurion, in his capacity as Defense Minister; and with Foreign Minister Golda Meir, who will return this week from attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

### 3,500 ISRAELI CHRISTIANS CROSS INTO JORDAN FOR CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Some 3,500 Israeli Christians, mostly Arabs, crossed the lines into Jordan yesterday to observe the Christmas holiday at shrines in the Old City of Jerusalem and to attend midnight mass Christmas Eve at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Granted permission to spend 36 hours in Jordan, many of them will visit relatives during their stay.

The crossing was described here as efficient and "good natured" with police on both sides cooperating politely and formally across the narrow, unmarked no-man's land.

Israel's Religious Affairs Minister Zorach Warhaftig observed the crossing from the Israel side while H.B. Khalidi, Jordan's Foreign Ministry liaison officer, watched the operation from the other side. After the crossing, Mr. Khalidi told the press that this was a "classic example of cooperation between Jews and Moslems for the benefit of Christians."

### ITALIAN JEWISH LEADERS CALL ON PRESIDENT WITH SEASON'S GREETINGS

ROME, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- A delegation of Jewish leaders today called upon Italian President Segni to offer the greetings of the Italian Jewish community on the occasion of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

The delegation, which included Rabbi Eli'o Toaff of Rome, Dr. Nissim, representing the Italian Rabbinical Council, and Professor Sergio Piperno, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, presented President Segni with two Italian translations of the Bible--one several hundred years old and one modern one.

In responding to the greeting, President Segni stressed that he had always been a firm supporter of constitutional guarantees with respect to equality of all citizens without regard to religion, race or political creed.

## FEW CHRISTIANS HELPED JEWS DURING NAZI HOLOCAUST, TV PROGRAM SHOWS

NEW YORK, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- A dramatic documentary television program, illustrating the manner in which "pitifully" few Christians, "in some areas disgracefully few," helped Jews in Europe during the Nazi holocaust, was transmitted coast-to-coast here tonight by the National Broadcasting Company.

Chet Huntley, a member of the prize-winning Huntley-Brinkley team of news reporters, acting as narrator on the program, entitled "The Righteous," declared: "The righteous were few in number. They were spread unevenly throughout Europe. There were almost none in Germany, Austria, Poland, the Ukraine, the Baltic States and Eastern Europe. But it was in France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Italy and Norway that the Jews found sympathy and, sometimes, assistance.

"At this late date, however, neither numbers nor rationality are crucial," Mr. Huntley continued. "What is important is to find those who helped, not only for their sake but for ours. From them, we may learn the motivations of the righteous man, for the need for the righteous is always with us."

Ace NBC correspondents interviewed, on the program, a number of Christians who participated in the work of aiding Jews, often at the risk of their own lives. Among them were a French Capucine monk, Father Benoit; Mrs. Jean Damon Scaglione, a former Belgian school teacher, now living in California; Ana Simiate, a librarian in Vilna during the war, now living in Paris; Hermann Graebe, one of the rare Germans to help Jews, who lives in San Francisco; Leo Hordyk, a Dutchman also living now on the West Coast; and Mrs. Eduardo Focherini, widow of an Italian who died in a Nazi concentration camp after being arrested for aiding Jews.

"The crimes of the Nazi era," said Mr. Huntley in concluding the program, "could not help but shake our faith in the essential goodness of man. Yet such a faith is essential to the functioning of a democratic form of government, and it's the essence of Western liberalism. The deeds of these righteous Christians are sustenance for that faith."

## FATHER COUGHLIN SAYS 'BIGOTRY IS PASSE'; BREAKS SILENCE OF 20 YEARS

DETROIT, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Father Charles E. Coughlin, the Catholic priest who was notorious for his anti-Semitism during the period immediately preceding World War II, has declared here that "bigotry is passe" and that its practice is now "confined largely to the professionals."

The priest made that statement, among others, in the first published interview he has given in about 20 years. He was interviewed by Harold Schachern, religious editor of the Detroit News. "I think," he told the interviewer, "that Catholics have been among the prize bigots. But we are losing that Latinistic arrogance and bigotry--a development that comes with maturity."

## BIRCH SOCIETY DENIES LINK TO BOSTON BACKER OF AMERICAN NAZI PARTY

BOSTON, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Spokesmen for the John Birch Society reportedly disassociated themselves here from a Boston backer of George Lincoln Rockwell's American Nazi Party, who had planned to open a "Joe McCarthy" bookshop here. The John Birch leaders took action against the bookshop plan after "amazement" over the reported tie-in with Rockwell had been expressed in a statement by the Jewish Community Council here and the New England region of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League.

The bookshop plan had been announced by Speros Lagoulis, identified by the Boston Herald as an associate of Rockwell who, in 1961, was fined \$25 here for helping Rockwell register at a Boston hotel under a false name. Lagoulis had been a "coordinator" for the John Birch Society. His Birch membership has, since, been revoked, according to a report here.

The Community Council-ADL statement pointed out that Robert Welch, leader of the Birch Society, had declared publicly: "I am not anti-Semitic, never could be, and never would allow the John Birch Society to become an agency or even a haven of anti-Semitic feelings."

## ARGENTINE JEWISH LEADER CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT STAND ON NEO-NAZIS

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Isaac Goldenberg, president of the DAIA, the representative agency for Argentinian Jewry, asserted today that the Government explanation that Argentine neo-Nazis were a group not representative of the Argentine people made the leniency shown to Nazi aggressors a matter of even greater concern.

Speaking at a monthly luncheon which concluded a 1962 series dedicated by the DAIA this year to Argentine poet Arturo Capdevila, Dr. Goldenberg addressed his remarks both to Jewish and leading non-Jewish literary and intellectual personalities.

He added that as long as national and international public opinion was aware of the "black point" of Argentine Nazism on the "white lead" of Argentine democracy, the latter would not be noted. Capdevila wrote frequently in laudatory terms about Jews during his 50 years of literary activity.

## U. S. JEWISH SENATORS VISIT ISRAEL; JAVITS CELEBRATES SON'S BAR MITZVAH

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Two Jewish members of the United States Senate, Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, and Ernest Gruening, Alaskan Democrat, visiting Israel separately, were scheduled here today for conferences with Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and other members of the Israeli Cabinet.

Both are slated to discuss Middle East problems in general, as these issues affect Israeli-U.S.A. relations. Senator Gruening is reportedly interested particularly in American assistance to Israel. In addition to meeting Mr. Ben-Gurion, each will also confer with Finance Minister Levi Eshkol and with Abba Eban, Minister of Education and Culture.

Senator Javits came here with his family to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of his son, Joshua Moses. The youngster will observe his Bar Mitzvah Saturday at the Jeshurun Synagogue here.

## CONVENTION OF REFORM TEMPLE EDUCATORS DISCUSSES ALL-DAY SCHOOL ISSUE

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The three-day annual convention of the National Association of Temple Educators opened here last night with the participation of delegates representing Reform synagogues throughout the country.

Among the topics to be dealt with by the educators are the Reform Jewish day school and the area of the relationship of the public and religious school. In Reform Jewish education there has been a movement of late which favors the establishment of an all day school under Reform Jewish auspices. Some Reform Jewish educators insist that the tradition and heritage of Reform Judaism would best be served if this type of education would become an integral part of Reform Judaism.

## \$156,000 RAISED FOR J.N.F. AT ANNUAL CHANUKAH DINNER IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- A vast program of Israeli activities for the next 10 to 20 years, including the establishment of 10 new cities in the revived Negev area in the next 10 years, was spelled out here last night by the Jewish National Fund. The program emerged from addresses delivered at the JNF's annual Chanukah dinner, at Beverly Hills, where \$156,000 was raised for the Jewish National Fund from 1,000 persons in attendance.

Mordechai Schneerson, Israel's Ambassador to Mexico, speaking as guest of honor of the JNF's "duty to settle and revive the Negev," announced the goal of establishing 10 new cities in the present desert. Dr. Joseph P. Sternstein, the Jewish National Fund's national director, said that, within 20 years, 2,500,000 dunams of land must be reclaimed in Israel, 2,000 miles of roads must be built, and 10,000,000 work-days must be given to new immigrants in Israel.

Dr. Max Nussbaum, president of the Zionist Organization of America, and Benjamin H. Swig, president of the Greater Western region of the JNF, called upon Los Angeles Jewry for continued support of the JNF, while Milan Roven, president of the Los Angeles council of the JNF, who presided, spoke of the great progress made here. The amounts raised were announced by Fred Kahan, executive director of the Western region.

## WORKMEN'S CIRCLE ESTABLISHES CULTURAL FOUNDATION; NAMED FOR CHANIN

NEW YORK, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The establishment of a \$50,000 Nathan Chanin Cultural Foundation, honoring the 75th birthday of Mr. Chanin, general secretary of the Workmen's Circle, was voted here today at the conclusion of a three-day conference of the organization's national board of directors.

One of the aims of the foundation, spelled out by Israel Breslau, former president of the Workmen's Circle and a vice-president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, is to encourage studies--on the college and university level--of the history of the Jewish labor movement, and the Yiddish theater and literature in the United States. The foundation will also establish a Yiddish children's theater in New York, and aid the existing theater of this type in Philadelphia. Annual scholarships will be awarded to students in the relevant fields in colleges and universities.

## HARRY SOFFER NAMED HEAD OF 1963 DRIVE OF ST. LOUIS JEWISH FEDERATION

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Harry N. Soffer, attorney, will head the 1963 fund-raising campaign of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, it was announced here today. Mr. Soffer was appointed general campaign chairman by Milton Frank, president of the Federation.

A long-time civic leader here, Mr. Soffer has been active in community work in St. Louis for more than 35 years. He succeeds Morris A. Shenker, who led the campaign for two successive years.