



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXX - 45th year

Thursday, March 21, 1963

No. 56

U. S. GIVES 'HIGH PRIORITY' ATTENTION TO ANTI-SEMITIC ACTS IN RUSSIA

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA) -- Anti-Semitic developments in the Soviet Union are now receiving "a high priority of attention" from the State Department's Soviet affairs experts, and American concern has been made known at "the highest levels of the Soviet Government," it was revealed today by the Department of State.

In a letter to National Commander Morton London, of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, written on behalf of Secretary of State Dean Rusk, State Department public services official Edward A. Karnacki reported on the Soviet Jewish problem. The Jewish veterans, concerned about events, had requested a report on State Department activity in this area and urged new moves to relieve persecution of Soviet Jews.

Mr. Karnacki replied that the Department "cannot stress too strongly our Government's disapproval of the pressures which the Soviet Government brings to bear" against the Jewish and other faiths. "In the case of the Jews," he said, "these pressures are such as to prevent the normal maintenance and development of Jewish religious and cultural life." He made known that the increased discrimination had become "a matter of deep concern to the Department."

State Dept. Sees Anti-Semitism 'In Many Areas' In Soviet Union

Reviewing events in the post-Stalin period, Mr. Karnacki cited intensified anti-religious propaganda, the increased application of social pressures, administrative restrictions and legal impediments as in the case of the ban on matzoth baking and occasional trials of religious figures on ordinary criminal charges.

He said that reports had been received by the Department "officially and from private observers" that anti-Semitism exists "in many areas of the Soviet Union." The State Department has established that "Jewish religious activities have been curtailed to the point where functioning synagogues are a rarity and opportunities to train and educate Jewish religious leaders have been practically eliminated."

It appeared to the Department that Soviet Jews "are receiving a disproportionate amount of condemnation and victimization" in the Soviet campaign against private speculation in goods and illegal transactions. Compared to the members of other ethnic or minority groups, the Jews are being disproportionately singled out for harsh treatment.

"While the Department has no basis upon which to assess the authenticity of the charges made against the defendants in these trials, the publicity given the trials will in all probability have the effect of buttressing already existing anti-Semitic prejudices through the association of identifiably Jewish persons with economic violations," said Mr. Karnacki.

Seeks to Arrange Talks between Moscow and U.S. Jewish Leaders

The official made known that "the highest levels of the Soviet Government have been told of our concern over this problem and efforts made to arrange meetings with representatives of American Jewish organizations." He added that "unfortunately, these efforts have been to little avail thus far."

The Department noted that "it is difficult for our Government to contribute to the direct solutions of the problem of minorities in a territory where a foreign sovereign government exercises full control. Many prominent members of American Jewish organizations have agreed with us that it is doubtful if further protestations by the United States Government would be helpful to the Jews in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government has frequently accused Soviet Jews of being under the supposedly sinister influence of foreign governments, including the United States."

Therefore, the Department feels that official intervention on behalf of the Soviet Jews could give the Kremlin an excuse to emphasize anti-Jewish charges "to the disadvantage of Soviet Jewry." Instead, according to Mr. Karnacki, the United States Government supports actions through the United Nations and stresses the important role of private organizations and individuals "in bringing such persecution to the notice of world opinion."

"To a degree," said Mr. Karnacki, "the Soviet Government is susceptible to the influence of world opinion in such matters." He pointed out that the United Nations Commission on Human Rights decided as a result of American initiative to include information from non-governmental organizations in consultative status in its next series of periodic reports.

ISRAEL DEMANDS BONN RECALL NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS FROM EGYPT

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- The Israel Government "demanded" today that the West German Government put a stop to the activities of West German scientists working in Egypt on advanced offensive weapons for the Nasser regime. The demand was voiced in Israel Parliament by Foreign Minister Golda Meir in a statement approved in advance by the Cabinet.

"If legislative or other measures are required for that purpose, we demand that such measures be taken at once in order to put an immediate stop to cooperation between German citizens and the Egyptian Government in this field," she said.

"The West German Government," Mrs. Meir continued, "cannot remain indifferent to the fact that 18 years after the fall of the Hitlerite regime, we again find members of that people responsible for acts designed to destroy Israel within which survivors of the Nazi holocaust have been gathered."

Her statement was the first by an Israeli Cabinet Minister in Parliament since the arrest of two men, one an Israeli and the other an Austrian, on March 2, in Basle in connection with alleged attempts to persuade West German scientists to halt their work on various missile and rocket projects in Cairo.

"For a long time," Mrs. Meir told the Parliament, "the Egyptian ruler" had been striving to build up greater strength to carry out his declared aim of destroying Israel. For years, large quantities of armaments have been flowing in Egypt, she added.

"Recently, a new element was added -- a number of German scientists and hundreds of German technicians are helping to develop offensive missiles in Egypt and even armaments banned by international law particularly of that category which serves solely for the destruction of life."

Criticizes Switzerland for Arresting Two as 'Israeli Agents'

Mrs. Meir charged that the Egyptian Government was seeking to obtain the kind of weapons -- which other powers either could not or did not want to supply -- through a group of "conscienceless scientists who are not only prepared to do Egypt's will but freely make this contribution of their own to the same aim."

"There is no doubt that the motives of this evil crew are, on the one hand the lust for gain and the other a Nazi inclination toward hatred of Israel and for the destruction of Jews," she asserted. "This is not a new development -- as far back as the days of Hitler the close ties between Cairo and Nazis have been well-known and it is no secret that Cairo serves today as the principal center and asylum for former Nazis."

Mrs. Meir also commented on the arrests in Basle, declaring that "in spite of the value we placed on the traditionally friendly relations between the peoples and the governments of Switzerland and Israel, we find it difficult to understand some of the steps taken by the Swiss authorities in the matter." This was a reference to plans of Swiss officials to try Joseph Bengel of Israel and Dr. Otto Jukelik of Austria on charges of "illegal activities on behalf of a foreign state."

Asserting that Israel could not conceive that the weapons development activities of the West German scientists and technicians were "in keeping with the desires of the Government of the West German Republic," Mrs. Meir said: "But these scientists and technicians are its citizens. We address ourselves to the Government of Germany and to the masses of the German people who abhor the past of Nazi Germany and who desire a different Germany. We state emphatically that neither we -- nor world public opinion -- can reconcile to this situation."

Five Killed by Explosives Sent from Germany to Scientists in Egypt

KARLSRUHE, March 20. (JTA) -- The West German public prosecutor was disclosed today to have instituted proceedings against "unknown persons" in connection with the death in Cairo of five persons killed and seven severely injured in Cairo from explosives sent to West German scientists working there.

The injuries and deaths occurred when parcels addressed to the scientists exploded on opening. Two parcels and a letter were received in Cairo from a Hamburg mailing address. The letter reportedly was addressed to Dr. Wolfgang Pilz, a West German rocket expert who disappeared from Munich last year.

A German woman secretary in Cairo lost an eye when she opened a letter addressed to one of the German rocket experts working for the Egyptian Government.

Leading West German Daily Warns Against Rocket Aid to Cairo

STUTTGART, March 20. (JTA) -- The Stuttgart Zeitung, one of West Germany's leading dailies, warned today that "not a single German rocket expert" should be responsible for "producing weapons against the Jewish people."

The editorial declared, in the developing controversy over the presence of West German scientists and technicians in offensive weapons development in Egypt, that the West German Government "should not hesitate publicly to put this question" to the scientists "before it is morally compelled to do so."

ISRAEL CONSIDERING CHANGES IN CITIZENSHIP LAW TO AVOID ABUSES

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- Interior Minister Moshe Shapiro disclosed today in Parliament that a Ministerial Committee had been set up to consider changes in the Law of the Return and citizenship regulations because of experiences which have led to "embarrassing situations."

The Law of Return gives any Jew who comes to Israel the right to automatic citizenship, except for cases of criminal activities in other countries. One of the embarrassing situations to which the Minister referred was the request of a former Polish Jew converted to Catholicism, Brother Daniel, for admittance to Israel under that law as a Jew by nationality. The Israel Supreme Court rejected his demand in a decision which attracted international attention.

Ending debate on the budget of the Interior Ministry and replying to criticism of existing citizenship laws, he expressed the view that immigrants should be required to wait one year before receiving citizenship. He said the automatic grant of citizenship on arrival was frequently abused.

ABOLITION OF ZIONIST PARTY STRUCTURE OPPOSED AT ACTIONS COMMITTEE

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann's proposal before the World Zionist Actions Committee meeting to abolish the Zionist party framework was opposed today by other Zionist leaders.

"The Zionist parties are the product of a historical crystallization and cannot merely be swept off the map," said Moshe Sharett, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive. "They have a mission to fulfill. Remove the parties and the mission will not be fulfilled." He admitted, however, that if the parties intended to meet their goals, "old leadership" had to start making way for the young generation.

Mrs. Rose Halprin, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, noted that Hadassah, of which she is a former president, and the Halprin-Goldstein faction of the World General Zionist movement both were opposed to aspects of the Zionist party system. However, she added, that stand was "a far cry from saying that there should be no organizations along philosophical and ideological lines."

Citing Dr. Goldmann's frequently reiterated contention that American Jewish life at best was "organized chaos," she retorted that the American Jewish community had "no desire to set up monolithic groups with great control at the top." She added the opinion that the Zionist movement had to take its position as a movement in the American local Jewish community, "something we have never done."

ISRAELI PASSENGER BUS ATTACKED BY ARABS ON ROAD FROM EILAT

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- A busload of Israeli passengers narrowly escaped possible massacre near the Jordanian border last night. At the same time -- but in another spot -- a Jordanian infiltrator was killed and another was wounded as a group of Arabs was caught by a border patrol inside Israeli territory.

The bus incident occurred on the road from Eilat to Tel Aviv. The driver told police that, as he slowed his vehicle to make a steep ascent on a hill, sudden bursts of fire hit the machine. He accelerated speed and made the top of the hill out of gun range, then halted. A number of bullets had hit the body of the bus.

The driver believed the attackers had aimed at killing him so that the bus would careen to a stop, after which they would have attacked the passengers. Footprints from the point of attack were traced by police 14 miles eastward to the Jordanian border. Israel complained of the incident to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization which sent military observers today to inspect the scene of the attack and the bullet-riddled bus.

Meanwhile, near Hebron, a group of Arabs infiltrated the area and was halted by an Israeli patrol. After killing one of the men and wounding another, the patrol chased the infiltrators back to the Jordanian border.

LEBANON SENTENCES JEWISH WOMAN TO 20 YEARS ON PRO-ISRAEL CHARGES

LONDON, March 20. (JTA) -- A Jewish woman, identified as Shula Cogan, has been sentenced by Lebanese authorities to 20 years in prison for alleged "activities on behalf of Israel," it was reported here today from Beirut. Four other persons each received 20-year sentences for smuggling refugees into Israel. Seven others were acquitted.

JORDAN BANS BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH 14 FIRMS FOR DEALING WITH ISRAEL

LONDON, March 20. (JTA) -- The Jordan Government has banned business relations with 14 firms for "violating the anti-Israel boycott," it was reported here today from Amman. The firms include Dr Beers Consolidated Mines, the huge diamond firm, as well as several companies with which Sir Isaac Wolfson, British mercantile leader and philanthropist, is associated.

CANADIAN PARTY ASSURES JEWISH CONGRESS OF OPPOSITION TO BIGOTRY

MONTREAL, March 20. (JTA) -- Robert Thompson, national leader of the Social Credit Party, last night publicly disavowed any anti-Semitism as a policy of his party. At an election rally at Pembroke, Ontario, he declared his party "firmly opposes racial discrimination and religious prejudice."

At the same time, he announced he had written to the Canadian Jewish Congress, affirming that principle of non-bias and asserting "I am aware of the great contributions to the Canadian way of life and to progress in the entire world made by the Jewish people of this country."

Mr. Thompson took his stand as part of his party's campaign in the general national elections, scheduled for April 8. The Social Credit Party is Canada's third largest political grouping, ranking next to the Conservative Party, led by the outgoing Prime Minister, John G. Diefenbaker, and the Liberal Party, led by the principal opposition candidate, Lester B. Pearson. In the last Parliament, the Social Credit members held the balance of power in Canada's House of Commons.

DAIA REPORTS LENIENCY OF ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES TOWARD ANTI-SEMITES

BUENOS AIRES, March 20. (JTA) -- A somber picture of leniency toward anti-Jewish aggressions by Argentine authorities and judiciary was outlined here today at the plenary session of the DAIA, the central representative body of Argentine Jewry; by its general secretary Abraham Gorbatt.

Dr. Isaac Goldenberg, president, said that Nazism "now has a state so support it, Egypt." He said neo-Nazism until recently was an "internationally disconnected movement." He also said it was an instrument which was feeding anti-Semitism to weaken Jewish communities and thus indirectly weaken Israel. He called for stronger Jewish unity to meet the threat and stressed that world Jewry lacked a central political round table.

Gregorio Faigon, vice-president of DAIA, told the session that while the position of Argentine Jewry had not undergone any major changes in recent months, internally it was displaying less unity and solidarity than in moments of emergency, a reference to the outburst of anti-Semitic smearings, shootings and other attacks on Jews after the execution of Adolf Eichmann in Israel.

The delegates adopted unanimously a resolution reiterating DAIA support for COJO, the world Conference of Jewish Organizations and expressed the hope that it would be enlarged and consolidated. The resolution also said the DAIA hoped that COJO would evolve into a "permanent organism" which would serve as an international instrument for the defense of Jewish communities.

JEWISH GROUPS HOPE FOR EXEMPTION OF SABBATH OBSERVERS FROM SUNDAY LAW

ALBANY, March 20. (JTA) -- A delegation of Jewish leaders emerged from meetings with key Rockefeller administration officials today and voiced optimism that legislation exempting Sabbath observers from the State Sunday-closing law would be passed this year.

Jewish organizations represented in the conferences with Rockefeller administration officials included the American Jewish Congress, Jewish War Veterans, New York Board of Rabbis, New York Federation of Reform Synagogues, Rabbinical Council of America, Sabbath Observance Council, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, and the United Synagogue of America. The conferences were coordinated by the New York City Committee on Jewish Affairs.

\$500,000 PAVILION DEDICATED AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY-HADASSAH CENTER

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- A two-story Mother and Child Pavilion was dedicated today at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical Center in the presence of American Ambassador Walworth Barbour, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Jerusalem Mayor Mordechai Ish Shalom, a delegation of American Hadassah leaders and the members of the 1963 Hadassah Study Mission.

The pavilion was named for Felica and Adolf Leon of New York who contributed \$250,000 for the project which was built at a cost of \$500,000. Other contributors were the United States Government, which provided a gift through counterpart funds, and Wilhelm Weinberg of New York who contributed \$100,000.

20 CALIFORNIA PHYSICIANS ATTEND POST-GRADUATE COURSE AT HEBREW U.

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- A group of some 20 physicians from California arrived here today to attend a clinical post-graduate course in various aspects of regional medicine opening at the Hebrew University. The course is organized jointly by the University of California School of Medicine, the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School and several Israeli hospitals.