



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXX - 45th year

Friday, October 11, 1963

No. 193

4,000 JEWS REPORTED STILL IN SYRIA; ARE SUBJECTED TO PERSECUTIONS

PARIS, Oct. 10. (JTA) -- A number of Syrian Jews were arrested late last week while trying to flee across the Syrian-Turkish border to escape the persecutions and discriminatory measures to which Syrian Jewry are being subjected, a French Jewish tourist reported today on his return from a three-month visit to that country.

The tourist, whose name was withheld and whose religion was not known to Syrian authorities, brought back with him a detailed eyewitness report on the sufferings of Syria's 4,000 Jews. He said that a number of Jews were in the Damascus central jail, awaiting trial early in 1964 on a variety of charges, including "attempted illegal exit" and "Zionist leanings." The tourist said he did not know how many Jews had been arrested on such charges.

The most painful discrimination to which Syrian Jewry was being subjected was a government ban on movement in Damascus without special "circulation permits," he reported. Without those permits, he said, Jews are forced to live in the former Jewish quarter which, for all practical purposes, has been converted into a virtual ghetto.

In addition, the Jewish community has been ~~hard~~ hit financially. Most of the remaining Jews in Syria had been peddlers, but they are barred from such activity in Damascus, where 3,000 Jews live. The restrictions on peddling do not apply to the Jews in other cities. Some 800 live in Aleppo, and the rest are scattered in smaller centers, the traveler said.

ISRAEL DETERMINED TO CARRY OUT JORDAN RIVER PROJECT; WARNS ARABS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 10. (JTA) -- Official Israeli sources declared today that the Jordan River irrigation project for the Negev is "a matter of life or death" for Israel. They made the statement following reports that the new Iraq-Syria military merger has, as one of its goals, the prevention of that project.

Reports from Damascus quoted Syrian Information Minister Sami Al Jundi as saying yesterday that the main duty of the Supreme Defense Council of the merged military forces would be to seek to counteract the Jordan River project. He also described the merger as "a defense necessity" for maintenance of peace in the Middle East, and said it would be followed by complete political union.

Reports from Egypt quoted Cairo newspapers as denouncing the Syrian-Iraq union as "cheap Baathist propaganda" -- a reference to the Socialist-oriented Baath party which fought off attempts by Egypt toward an Egyptian-Syrian-Iraq union under control of Egyptian President Nasser.

Al Ghoumhouria, the Cairo newspaper which reflects Nasser's opinion, charged that the Syrian-Iraq union "is not aimed at the Zionist enemy but at the enemy of Zionism," Egypt. Al Akhbar, another Cairo newspaper, asserted that the union "is good news for Israel and bad news for the Arabs."

King of Jordan Threatens U. S. to Turn to Moscow for Arms

LONDON, Oct. 10. (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan yesterday announced at a press conference in Amman, his capital, that he may turn to the Soviet Union for purchase of armaments and military equipment if he does not get such materiel from "our friends, the United States, Britain and France," according to Amman dispatches received here today.

The King said that he had recently "struck up new friendships" with the USSR. "Our American friends," he stated, "are fully aware of our opinions. Jordan has no right to ask the United States to change its policy, and our relations with the U.S.A. are still strong," he added. He explained that if he turns to the Soviet Union for certain materiel, it will be because the equipment Jordan needs is not available in the West. Jordan and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations two months ago.

Discussing relations with the Soviet Union, the King stated that the world situation is not as tense now as it had been, and that the Communist threat to his country is not as serious now. He said it was still too early to tell whether Russian military or economic aid would follow diplomatic recognition. But, he said, Jordan is changing its military equipment, and now wants "quality."

EGYPT'S FOREIGN MINISTER URGES U.N. PLEBISCITE AMONG ARAB REFUGEES

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Oct. 10. (JTA) -- Mahmoud Fawzi, Foreign Minister of Egypt, proposed to the General Assembly here today that the United Nations conduct a plebiscite among the Arab refugees and "eventually abide by their choice to return to their homes" in Israel.

He made the proposal in the course of his formal address to the Assembly's plenary session, outlining his government's general foreign policies. He also indicated that the Assembly should "see to it that a stop be put to the Jewish influx into Palestine." He said that "the Arab people of Palestine would continue to struggle until justice is done for the restoration of their rights."

ISRAEL OPPOSES U.S. AND SOVIET RUSSIA IN U.N. DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Oct. 10. (JTA) -- Israel today opposed both the United States and the Soviet Union in a debate in the General Assembly's committee dealing with human rights, as the group continued to debate a draft United Nations declaration that would call for the elimination of all racial discrimination.

One of the proposed articles in the draft was being backed by the Soviet Union, calling for the disbanding and prohibition of all "racist and neo-Fascist organizations." Dr. Eliezer Yapou, Israel's representative in the committee, opposed the Russian phrasing as "vague and subject to arbitrary interpretation." (The Soviet press has frequently branded Zionism and Jewish religious activities as "neo-Fascist.")

At the same time, Dr. Yapou opposed the United States view, which would call only for "condemning" racist organizations. He did not name either the U. S. A. or the USSR in his intervention but, instead, voiced strong backing for a Brazilian draft which holds that all groups propagandizing racial superiority or inciting to hatred be "punishable under criminal law," be prohibited and disbanded.

Asserting that Israel was opposed to censorship against any group, Dr. Yapou told the committee: "Incitement is a call for action, not an expression of opinion. To shout 'Jews to the crematoria' is not an expression of an idea but a call for action--and action can be countered only by action."

PROMINENT AMERICANS HOLD CONFERENCE TOMORROW ON JEWS IN RUSSIA

NEW YORK, Oct. 10. (JTA) -- Nearly 100 prominent Americans, including leading authorities on life in the Soviet Union, will take part in a day-long Conference on the Status of Soviet Jews which will take place Saturday at the Carnegie International Center. Sponsors of the meeting, who will participate in the discussion, include Associate Justice William O. Douglas of the U. S. Supreme Court and the Rt. Rev. James A. Pike, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of California, who will preside.

According to Moshe Dexter, a specialist in Soviet affairs, who is serving as executive secretary of the conference, the speakers and discussion participants will deal with "discrimination and cultural repression directed against the 3,000,000 Jews of the USSR." The invitation to the conference cited the "tragic fate" of Soviet Jewry, described as "a truncated, repressed community," and cited the "moral, cultural and intellectual suppression of Soviet Jewish life."

In addition to Justice Douglas and Bishop Pike, sponsors of the conference include the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Negro integrationist leader; former Sen. Herbert H. Lehman; Walter Reuther, president of the United Automobile Workers of America; Norman Thomas, veteran Socialist and pacifist leader; and Robert Penn Warren, novelist and poet. Among the persons who have accepted invitations to participate in the conference are a number of distinguished figures in intellectual, academic and public life. They include:

Paul B. Anderson, department of international affairs, National Council of the Churches of Christ; Irving Brown, United Nations representative, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions; Zbigniew Brzezinski, director, Research Institute on Communist Affairs, Columbia University; Clark M. Eichelberger, executive director, American Association for the United Nations; Ralph Ellison, novelist; Merle Fainsod, director, Russian Research Center, Harvard University; Louis Fischer, author and historian; the Rev. Donald Harrington, minister, Community Church of New York; and Homer A. Jack, executive director, National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy.

Also, the Rev. John LaFarge, associate editor, *America*; Dwight Macdonald, critic; Seymour Melman, professor of industrial engineering, Columbia University; Hans J. Morgenthau, director, Center for the Study of American Foreign and Military Policy, University of Chicago; James M. Nabrit, Jr., president, Howard University; Ernest Nagel, John Dewey Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University; Jan Papanek, chairman, International League for the Rights of Man; Henry L. Roberts, director, Russian Institute, Columbia University; I. F. Stone, editor; Lionel Trilling, professor of English, Columbia University; and Harry A. Wolfson, Nathan Littauer Professor of Hebrew Literature and Philosophy, emeritus, Harvard University.

SURVEY ESTABLISHES JEWISH ATTITUDES AMONG NEWLYWEDS IN ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 10. (JTA) -- Half of the Jewish couples married here in the last two years read Yiddish, and 50 per cent of them read Jewish publications, mainly in Spanish, a survey conducted here by the Latin American section of the American Jewish Committee indicated. The report of the survey was made public today by Abraham Monk, director of the AJC office here.

A questionnaire had been circulated to all Jewish newlyweds, and answers were received from 97 per cent of the couples married in the last two years. The data showed that 71 per cent of the husbands and 57 per cent of the wives were "nominally affiliated" with some Jewish organization, but only 25 per cent attend Jewish activities.

Of the total respondents, 87 per cent were born in Argentina; 70 per cent had "some" Jewish education; 12 per cent had taken private Hebrew courses; and 34 per cent disapproved of the quality of Jewish schooling here.

The figures also showed that 57 per cent observe the Passover by having a Seder with their parents; 47 per cent fast on Yom Kippur; eight per cent eat kosher food; seven per cent observe the Sabbath; 40 per cent attend synagogue, mainly on the High Holy Days. Ninety per cent thought it was possible to be a good Jew while living outside Israel. Mr. Monk said that the Argentine Jewish community need not expect a demographic expansion, on the basis of this survey, since most of the couples indicated they plan on having no more than two or three children.

SMALL JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA REPORTED PROGRESSING

MEXICO CITY, Oct. 10. (JTA) -- Many small Jewish communities throughout Central America and the Caribbean area have made significant progress in the last 18 months, since the formation of the Rabbinical Union of Central America and the Caribbean Region, and the simultaneous establishment of the Central Conference of Jewish Communities covering the same countries, it was reported here today by Rabbi A.M. Hershberg, president of the two organizations.

The organizations, formed at a conference in Panama in January 1962, established its regional headquarters in Mexico City and is now planning a second all-region conference to be held at Bogota, Colombia next winter. Despite the progress in the last eighteen months, however, Rabbi Hershberg declared there is still a shortage of rabbis and other Jewish ecclesiastical personnel. He appealed to young rabbis in the United States and other countries to take posts in the region to help revive and strengthen the Jewish communities.

In Guatemala, which he visited recently, Rabbi Hershberg reported, the three separate communities - Sephardim, German Jews and Polish Jews - have united to bring a rabbi into their area. The newly arrived spiritual leader is Rabbi Hirsch Zelikovitch, formerly of Costa Rica. The Guatemalan community has also appointed a ritual slaughterer (schochet). The latter will visit occasionally the communities in El Salvador and Honduras. Additionally, a "kashruth bank," a depository for kosher meats has been established in Guatemala City to serve the communities in the very small Jewish settlements in nearby countries.

In Colombia, Rabbi H. Gotesman, who formerly served a congregation in Puerto Rico, has arrived to take over the spiritual leadership of the Ashkenazic community of Bogota. In Venezuela, the Jewish congregation now has the services of Rabbi S. Karelitz, formerly of Windsor, Canada.

Progress has also been made in the smaller Jewish communities in the Mexican interior, the report showed. However, applications for rabbis, said Rabbi Hershberg, have come in from Surinam, Dutch Guiana, the Dutch West Indies, Curacao, Aruba, Quito, Ecuador, and Tijuana, Mexico.

The report noted that there is great interest among the Jews in the entire region in "The Voice of Jerusalem," a periodical published at the central headquarters here. The periodical is issued in Spanish and Yiddish here, and is translated into Hebrew in Israel. Satisfaction was expressed in the report also with the progress made by the Rabbinical Court established here for the entire region, as well as by the new Central American Yeshivah.

ISRAELI-EDUCATED ARTIST WINS BRAZILIAN PRIZE AS ENGRAVER IN BOOKS

SAO PAULO, Oct. 10. (JTA) -- A German-born, Israeli-educated artist, Gerson Knispel, was honored today at the Seventh Biennial of Modern Art of Sao Paulo as the best engraver in the class of books and printing. He was given a prize for his engravings for "The Children's Crusade," published by Editora Brasiliense, which were judged the "best set of illustrations for individual editions."

The artist provided illustrations for the windows of Congregaco Israelite Paulista, and for many facades of public and private buildings as well as for book covers, including two books of Yale Dayan, daughter of Agriculture Minister Moshe Dayan. He has been living in Sao Paulo for the last five years.

JEWISH AGENCY REPORTS INCREASE IN ALIYAH FROM U. S. DURING YEAR

NEW YORK, Oct. 10. (JTA) - A total of 1,749 Americans and Canadians settled in Israel during the past Jewish year as a part of the Aliyah program of the American Section of the Jewish Agency, it was reported today. This is an increase of 150 over the figures for the previous Jewish year.

In making the figures public, Louis Segal and Rabbi M. Kirshblum, members of the Jewish Agency executive in charge of the Aliyah Department, said that the largest group of immigrants during the past year were classified as professional, 349, or 20 per cent of the total, with an additional 53 listed as skilled workers. Another large group was that of retired men and women, totaling 270.

Almost 500 of the newcomers to Israel planned to spend their first half year as parts of Ulpan groups, an intensive program for the study of modern Hebrew. Two hundred and forty of this group were adults, and 214 were students who went to study at the Hebrew University and Technion who had made definite plans to settle in Israel permanently. Eighty-six of the new Israelis were young Zionist chalutzim who had trained in this country prior to their settlement in Israel.

FIFTY JEWISH LEADERS IN CHICAGO PURCHASE \$686,000 IN ISRAEL BONDS

CHICAGO, Oct. 10. (JTA) -- Fifty leaders of the Israel Bond Campaign in Chicago subscribed to a total of \$686,000 in bonds, and promised today that Chicago would produce a total of \$5,000,000 in bond sales for the 1963 year, at a dinner in honor of Pinhas Sapir, who made his first appearance at an Israel bond meeting since becoming Finance Minister.

Mr. Sapir, who is also Commerce and Industry Minister, told the Chicago Jewish leaders that Israel could not have achieved its impressive economic progress during the past decade without the financial resources provided through Israel bond sales. He emphasized that not economic considerations but the devoted interest of bond purchasers was responsible for the outstanding success of the Israel Bond organization.

He added that there was not "a house, a school, a factory or a farm in whose building Israel Bond money has not played a role," and stressed that if present Mid-East tensions were relaxed, Israel could achieve economic independence before 1970.

NEW BUILDING DEDICATED BY TECHNION; NAMED AFTER CHICAGO WOMAN

HAIFA, Oct. 10. (JTA) -- A new, three-story building, named after the late Mrs. Anne Borowitz, of Chicago, was dedicated here yesterday by Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology. The structure will house the laboratories and teaching facilities of the institute's departments of sanitary engineering, geodesy and structural engineering, as well as offices of the faculty of civil engineering.

The Anne Borowitz building was erected through contributions by members and friends of the Chicago chapter of the American Technion Society, including David Borowitz, Samuel M. Bernstein, Jacob R. Sensibar, Nathan H. Sherman, David Silbert, Maurice Spartus and Joseph Wertheimer.

\$1,000,000 HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING DEDICATED AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 10. (JTA) -- Dedication ceremonies and first classes were held here yesterday at the new Hebrew University High School, a \$1,000,000 structure on the Hebrew University Campus. The National Council of Jewish Women of the United States contributed more than half of the funds for the construction of this latest addition to Israel's educational system. Until now, classes of this high school had been scattered in borrowed quarters in various sections of Jerusalem.

Mrs. Joseph Willen, of New York, president of the NCJW, sent a special message read at the dedication ceremonies, declaring that the high school, "even working in insufficient quarters," had become "a shining beacon for all Israeli education, and indeed for much of the Near East and Africa."

LEADER OF U. S. WOMEN'S LABOR ZIONIST ORGANIZATION HONORED IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Oct. 10. (JTA) -- The Catalogue Room of the Graduate Library school in the Hebrew University has been named in honor of Mrs. Sidney Leff, who recently completed a four-year term as president of Pioneer Women, the women's Labor Zionist organization said today.

The Jewish National Fund has presented Mrs. Leff with a plaque for her efforts for JNF and for initiating Pioneer Women's latest project in Israel, called Ba'Negev. A dormitory of the Pioneer Women-Moetzet Hapoalot Agricultural High School in Kanot, near Beersheba, will bear Mrs. Leff's name, according to Beba Idelson, Israel Parliament Deputy Speaker and head of Moetzet Hapoalot, the sister organization in Israel of Pioneer Women.