



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

Wednesday, December 11, 1963

No. 234

BRITISH FIRM OFFERS TO REINSTATE JEWISH PEER; CONDEMNED IN PARLIAMENT

LONDON, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- The Norwich Union Insurance Companies declared today in a formal statement that it had invited Lord Mancroft, the Jewish business leader who was forced to resign from the company's London advisory board under Arab pressure, to return to his board position. The Jewish baron said he was undecided about accepting the offer.

The company denied, in the statement, that it had given encouragement or aid to the Arab boycott. A spokesman for the Arab Information Office in London promptly said that if Lord Mancroft were reinstated, "presumably" the insurance company would be placed on the Arab blacklist.

The incident was the center of a lengthy debate today in both Houses of Parliament, with all parties participating and with the Conservative Government under sharp attack over its position.

In the House, Peter Thomas, Joint Minister of State and Foreign Office, told Sir Barnett Janner, Member of Parliament and president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, that the British Government "strongly disapproves of pressure from any source on British firms to discriminate between British subjects on any grounds."

"We have made our views known to representatives of the Arab embassies in London and in doing so, we have expressed our disapproval of actions by these embassies designed to bring pressure on British firms to comply with the Arab boycott of Israel and we have said we hope this practice will not continue," the government spokesman said.

Sir Barnett had asked if the Foreign Secretary would take steps to prevent countries from using their representatives in Britain to coerce firms in Britain to dismiss officers or employees connected with trade with friendly nations.

Government Statement Against Arab Pressure Welcomed in Commons

Following Mr. Thomas' statement, Sir Barnett thanked him for "this important, gratifying step forward" and said that the deepest interest would be taken abroad in the reply, "particularly in the European countries." Sir Barnett then asked whether "you will continue to make it part of the Government policy to encourage British merchants and industrialists to expose and resist any of these vicious pressures in the future." Mr. Thomas replied that "I think what I said makes our views on this matter perfectly clear."

Harold Wilson, leader of the opposition Labor party, said that the statement by Mr. Thomas was "wholeheartedly welcomed on the side of the House" and added: "We all you equally join us in condemning the action of the Norwich Union company in giving into pressure at this time, which must make our task a great deal harder?"

Mr. Thomas replied: "No, I do not think it would be appropriate for the British Government to condemn the action of any individual firm. All I would say is the best action we could take in this difficult matter is to express our disapproval of certain actions by the governments concerned."

Gilbert Longden, a Conservative MP, declared that "great neutral organizations like the Norwich Union do not need help and advice of the Government--all they need are a few more guts. But small firms which do ask for the advice of the Government are not getting it in very firm terms, such as those you have now announced."

He asked: "Would you inject into replies that come from the Board of Trade advice that they should ignore the boycott--such as the United States and West German governments are giving their citizens?" Mr. Thomas replied that "if any individual firm asks advice or assistance, we will consider the request."

John Paton, a Labor MP, said that "this condemnation should stiffen the backs of some of the boneless wonders who seem to be running some of the big commercial firms of this country." He added that since the Arabs were not likely to cease their

boycott activities, he wanted to know whether Mr. Thomas would consider seeking legal action to make discrimination in international trade illegal.

The Minister answered that the Government deplored all racial discrimination but, he added, "I think I should say in all fairness that the representatives of the Arab Embassies who came to the Foreign Office yesterday emphasized that the boycott was not discrimination on racial grounds. They explained that the boycott derives from what they maintain is a state of war between Israel and the Arab countries." This was a reference to a meeting between a group of Arab Embassy representatives and Lord Carrington, Deputy Foreign Secretary, at the Foreign Office at which the official condemned boycott activities as outside interference in British domestic affairs.

Government Repeats Statement in House of Lords During Debate

Lord Carrington repeated in the House of Lords the statement of the Government's position given by Minister Thomas in Commons. The Earl of Alexander, opposition leader, asked whether all of the Arab countries had been represented.

The Earl then asked if the Arab representatives had mentioned the fact that they had stated on a British television program that they considered their countries to be in a state of war with Israel. The Deputy Foreign Secretary replied: "I think that has always been the position of the Arab countries and we have always said we will not take sides in the matter."

Commenting that Britain had "good friendships with the Arab countries," the Earl then urged that they be told that "our trade and commerce cannot be interfered with in this matter when there is an armistice agreed upon under the influence of the United Nations."

Lord Silken asked for a "more positive lead" from the Government for 88 British firms which had been asked by the Arab boycott office for details about their business. He said they should be encouraged by the Government to refuse such information and that such encouragement would be a great help to them.

Lord Carrington replied that the Government's position had been made "perfectly clear" and that it was up to the individual firm to decide in the light of its own interests what it should do.

Lord Morrison urged pressure on Egypt to restore the freedom of the right of all traffic going through the Suez Canal, whether destined for Israel or not. Lord Carrington ruled that this was a different question.

ARAB MILITARY PARLEY LACKS UNITY ON HAMPERING ISRAEL'S WATER PLAN

LONDON, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Delegates to the Arab military conference, now being held in Cairo to discuss means of preventing Israel's plans for use of Jordan River waters, were reported here today to be encountering difficulties in working out a unified plan to block Israel's water development project.

Israel plans to use the water for a vast irrigation project in the Negev. After several years of work, the project is reportedly scheduled to go into operation next spring--a timetable which has evoked threats of military action by some of the Arab governments.

Differences among the Arab countries was reported hampering the delegates in their efforts to work out a unified plan in time for a meeting of the Arab League Defense Council next month. One proposed plan was to build canals in Jordan to lower the Jordan River water level.

Sources in London said that even among the Arabs there was skepticism that any concrete understanding would emerge from the meetings in view of internal Arab differences.

HEAVY RAINS FLOOD ROADS IN ISRAEL; JERUSALEM RAILWAY AFFECTED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- The first snow of the season in Israel fell this morning in Galilee to add to the woes of a population buffeted by incessant rain for the past week.

Rain and gales lashed central Israel for the past 24 hours, flooding almost all roads leading from Tel Aviv to the south and east. The railway to Jerusalem also was flooded. Deputy Premier Abba Eban was forced to use a helicopter from Ramleh to Jerusalem to be on time to extend a formal farewell to departing Congolese President Joseph Kasavubu.

Desert gullies in the Negev again were flooded and the Beersheba bridges were again washed away. Only a trickle of heavy trucks were able to go on to the southern Negev. Eilat, Israel's southernmost port and Arad were cut off for several hours.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT REITERATES DECISION NOT TO JOIN GENOCIDE PACT

LONDON, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- The British Government reiterated in the House of Commons today its decision against accession to the United Nations Convention Against Genocide. That convention has been in force since 1951, but neither Britain nor the United States has ratified it. Chanukah begins at sundown this evening.

Today's repetition of the Government's objection to becoming a partner to the convention against genocide was expressed in the House by Peter Thomas, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. He was answering a query on the issue from Sir Barnett Janner, a Labor member of Parliament who is also president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. He cited as the reason a statement made by the Government in July 1962, declaring that that stand "explained the matter fully."

Two reasons were given by the Government last year for refusing to accede to the instrument against genocide. One was that, under the UN convention, the Government would have to "forego its traditional right to give political asylum to refugees in certain cases involving a purely political offense." The UN convention calls genocide a criminal offense, not political.

The other reason stated by the Government was that, in the unlikely event that anyone in Britain might be accused of genocide, "ordinary criminal law" would cover such a crime. The Government, however, affirmed its "utter abhorrence of the crime of genocide, and its determination that those who commit it should be brought to justice."

MOSCOW CHARGES TWO AMERICANS WITH AIDING NAZIS TO KILL JEWS

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Two Philadelphia residents refused comment today on charges by the Soviet press that they helped to liquidate a Jewish ghetto while serving in the German police during the Nazi occupation of the Ukraine.

The charge was made in the trade union newspaper, Trud, which called yesterday for the prosecution of Serhij Kowalczyk, 44, and his brother Mykola, 37. The newspaper charged that the brothers took part in liquidating the Jewish ghetto in Lyubomir, their home town, and in seizing the property of the 5,000 Jews in the ghetto.

Trud asserted that the brothers fled from the Ukraine with the retreating German forces in 1944 when the Russians re-took the area. The Soviet paper said that residents in Lyubomir had identified Serhij as the man who transported Jews to an execution site and confiscated their property. The brothers, Trud added, had started a correspondence recently with their parents, who live in Kremenets, in the Ukraine, and have been sending them gift parcels.

FIFTEEN HASSIDIM LEAVE FOR RUSSIA TO VISIT GRAVE OF BRATZLAVER REBBE

NEW YORK, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Fifteen young followers of the Bratzlaver Rebbe, all of them from Brooklyn, were en route to the Soviet Union today, to pray at the grave of the Rebbe, in Uman, Ukraine, where he was buried after his death in 1811. The group, led by Rabbi Zvi Aron Rosenfeld, was given Soviet visas permitting the young Hassidim to spend four hours in Uman.

Nahum ben Simchah of Bratzlav was the great grandson of Israel Baal Shem Tov, founder of Hassidism, and lived in Bratzlav. He was the author of many of the tales centered about the teachings of the Baal Shem Tov. After his death, many Hassidim refused to recognize any other Rebbe, continuing to worship in the name of the Bratzlaver and making pilgrimages to the grave of their teacher.

The 15, who left New York by plane, were to change aircraft at Moscow for Kiev, whence they would go by bus to Uman. After their visit to Uman, they were scheduled to go to Israel for five days. According to word received by the Brooklyn Hassidim from a descendant of the Bratzlaver still living in Uman, the Bratzlaver's original tombstone was destroyed during World War II, but the site has been traced and a new monument erected there.

PROF. FEIGL, BRAZILIAN JEWISH LEADER, INVITED TO LECTURE IN MOSCOW

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Professor Fritz Feigl, the well-known Brazilian Jewish chemist, has accepted an invitation by the Soviet Academy of Science to deliver a number of lectures in Moscow. Professor Feigl is president of the Confederation of Jewish Communities of Brazil.

BACHRACH, JEWISH COMMUNAL LEADER, RE-ELECTED MAYOR OF CINCINNATI

CINCINNATI, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Walton H. Bachrach, prominent Jewish communal leader, has been re-elected to his second term as mayor of this city.

18,000 PARTICIPATE IN CHANUKAH FESTIVAL AT N.Y. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

NEW YORK, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- A capacity audience of 18,000 New Yorkers filled Madison Square Garden last night to participate in the Chanukah Festival for Israel, the high point of the 1963 campaign in the New York metropolitan area to mobilize Israel bond investment funds. Chanukah begins at sundown this evening.

The event, which offered a moving tribute to the late President Kennedy and also eulogized Herbert H. Lehman and Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, brought to \$11,500,000 the amount of Israel bonds sold in the metropolitan area since the beginning of this year. A second and third performance of the Chanukah Festival will be held on Monday evening, December 23 and Thursday evening, January 2.

SEVENTY SCHOLARS COMPILING NEW 10-VOLUME ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA

NEW YORK, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- More than 70 scholars and professors in over a score of universities in the U.S., Israel and Europe are compiling the new ten-volume Encyclopaedia Judaica, it was announced here today. The announcement was made by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, honorary president of the encyclopaedia and Joseph Meyerhoff, president of the Encyclopaedia Judaica Press. The announcement said that according to the present estimates the ten volumes will be completed at a total cost of \$1,500,000.

The Editor-in-Chief of the Encyclopaedia is Dr. Benzion Netanyahu, Prof. of Medieval and Modern Hebrew literature at Dropsie College in Philadelphia. Prof. William F. Albright of Johns Hopkins University is chairman of the Editorial Council. Professors Abraham Neuman, president of Dropsie College, and Benzion Dinur of Hebrew University, formerly Israel's Minister of Culture and Education, are co-chairmen of the board of editors.

"Plans for the encyclopaedia were first initiated at a meeting of founders in New York on December 9, 1961. Within the past two years close to one-half of the manuscript has been completed by the staff of editors and writers," the announcement stated. "The staff consists of departmental editors working at their respective universities and colleges which head a group of some 400 leading scientists, researchers, writers and artists, Jews and non-Jews from many lands. There are two editorial centers currently at work on the encyclopaedia in Philadelphia and Jerusalem." The encyclopaedia's ten volumes will cover a total of more than 5,000 pages with some six million words and 2,000 illustrations and maps.

CANADA-ISRAEL CULTURAL FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED; WILL GIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

TORONTO, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Establishment of the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation to help further cultural activities in Israel has been announced by Mrs. Alfred C. Cowan, its chairman. The foundation will devote itself to fostering cultural exchanges between Canada and Israel. Activities will center on art, literature, drama, music, science and history. A scholarship program will be set up to assist young, talented Israelis in all the arts, enabling them to study in Canada, the United States, Israel or elsewhere.

Mrs. Cowan said the organization would undertake "to promote, arrange, assist intercultural exchanges between Canada and Israel, and to engage in charitable endeavors and other such activities as will promote a mutually beneficial cultural relationship between the peoples of Canada and Israel, particularly in the fields of art, literature, drama, music, science and history."

\$2,000,000 ISSUE OFFERED TO CANADIAN INVESTORS BY ISRAELI BANK

MONTREAL, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Canadian investors have been offered \$2,000,000 in dollar-linked shares in the Industrial Development Bank of Israel, Dr. Avraham Neuman, managing director of the bank, revealed here today. The offer has been made through the Canadian Israel Development Co., and a first payment of \$500,000 has been made. If the total issue is subscribed, a Canadian director will be nominated to the board of the bank.

The \$2,000,000 offer is part of a \$37,000,000 issue made available by the bank, of which \$34,000,000 has already been committed. Dr. Neuman further stated that a contract was signed recently with Automatic Electric Canada Ltd., of Brockville, Ontario, for \$2,500,000 for automatic telephone equipment and was made possible by the first credit loan granted Israel by the Canadian Government.

THEODORE STRIMLING, VETERAN ZIONIST LEADER, DIES IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Theodore Strimling, a veteran Zionist and Jewish communal leader, died here today at the age of 82. He was Jewish National Fund chairman for the West Coast for 30 years.

Born in Lithuania, Mr. Strimling came to this country in 1904. At the time of his death he was vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America and vice-chairman of the board of overseers of the University of Judaism.