



Jewish Telegraphic Agency DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXX - 45th year

Thursday, December 12, 1963

No. 235

'AUSCHWITZ TRIAL' TO START IN FRANKFURT; EXPECTED TO LAST EIGHT MONTHS

FRANKFURT, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The biggest postwar trial of Nazis accused of mass murder of Jews, involving 22 former officials and a former inmate who was a trustee in the Auschwitz extermination camp, where millions of Jews were annihilated, will open here on December 20, it was announced here today. But the presentation of evidence against the defendants will probably not begin until February or early March, it was indicated by the chief prosecutor, Dr. Hans Grossman.

Dr. Grossman said it would take at least one to two months before completion of all preliminaries, including opening statements from each of the 22 defendants. Eighteen attorneys have been retained by the defendants. The trial, which will be held in Frankfurt City Hall, will draw more than 100 reporters from West Germany and other countries.

After the first session on December 20, the next hearing will be on December 30. The trial has been in preparation since 1959. The chief defendant, Richard Baer, who was the last Auschwitz commandant, and who was arrested for the trial, died last June in prison.

The 23 defendants were chosen from about 1,000 suspects on the basis of evidence supplied by 1,300 survivors of the murder camp in which an estimated 4,000,000 men, women and children--mostly Jews--were put to death during the war. The indictment covers 700 pages, and evidence from the 1,300 survivors totals about 16,000 pages. The prosecution plans to call 254 witnesses from 13 European countries, Israel, the United States and Australia.

The court will be made up of three judges and three supplementary judges; and six regular and four supplementary jurors. Chief Prosecutor Grossman is the head of the political section of the Frankfurt Prosecutor's office. He will be assisted by three other district attorneys. The victims will be represented by 15 "private accusers," close relatives of Jews slaughtered in Auschwitz. The defense lawyers are either of their choice or appointed by the government.

The most important defendants are Robert Mulka and Karl Hoecker, who were adjutants of Rudolf Hoess, the first commandant; and of Baer. Others are the former camp dentist, SS officer Willi Frank; Dr. Franz Lucas, former camp physician; Dr. Viktor Capesius; SS officer Franz Hofmann, camp druggist; Wilhelm Boger, aide to the chief of the political division; Oswald Kaduk, and SS male nurse Josef Klehr. Hofmann has already been sentenced to death for his murders in the Dachau camp.

They are variously charged with mass and individual shootings, selections for gassing, mass and individual tortures, gassing, trampling inmates to death, hangings, medical experiments, injections and other crimes. The camp was established in April 1940 under Hoess, who was tried by Polish authorities in the first Auschwitz trial in Warsaw in April 1, 1947, and hanged at the camp.

Two High German Police Officials Arrested; Involved in Killing Jews

BONN, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Two high police officials, each heading a division of the West German criminal police, have been arrested on separate charges of involvement in the mass murder of Jews during World War II, it was announced here today. One is Werner Meyer, chief police commissioner of the Schleswig-Holstein criminal investigation division. The other is Dr. George Fleischmann, head of the criminal police bureau at Ludwigshafen.

According to a Ministry of Justice official at Kiel, Meyer has been under investigation for 18 months. An officer in the SS during the war, he was stationed in Russia in 1943. The charge against him is "involvement in the mass murder of Jews." He has been suspended from his office.

Fleischmann is charged with "participation in the mass shootings of Jews in the Smolensk region in 1941." He is also accused of having ordered the execution of an SS officer on the staff of a Nazi exterminating squad in Russia. Six police officials have been arrested in Schleswig-Holstein since 1959 on charges of having committed war crimes during the Nazi regime.

LORD MANCROFT DECLINES TO REJOIN FIRM WHICH YIELDED TO ARAB BOYCOTT

LONDON, Dec. 11, (JTA) -- Lord Mancroft, the Jewish business leader who resigned from the Norwich Union Insurance Company's board under Arab boycott pressure, rejected today an invitation from the insurance firm to return to the board.

The offer of reinstatement was made in a formal statement by the big insurance company yesterday at the same time that British Government spokesmen condemned the Arab boycott and blacklisting of British firms in sharp debate in both Houses of Parliament.

The British peer turned down the offer in a letter to the company's president, Sir Robert Bignold, in which he wrote: "I am sure the implications of your invitation will be understood both at home and abroad. I feel, however, that after all that has happened, my reassociation with the Norwich Union could not lead to a proper working relationship. I must therefore with regret decline your offer." The peer told reporters later that he did not wish to add anything to his letter.

The incident continued to have repercussions, including a conference last night of ambassadors in London of 12 Arab countries at which the envoys expressed "surprise" at the statement yesterday in the House of Lords by Lord Carrington, Deputy Foreign Secretary, strongly disapproving pressures exerted by Arab embassies in London against British firms suspected or known to be trading with Israel. The statement also was made in the House of Commons.

The 12 Arab envoys issued a counter-statement that their respective Governments "are the sole judges" of the envoy's activities. The ambassadors emphasized that they were "not prepared to receive instructions or remarks except from our governments."

Israel Sees New British Approach to Arab Boycott Threat

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11, (JTA) -- The British Government's blunt warning to Arab diplomatic representatives in London not to press Israel boycott actions against British firms was seen here today as a departure of a previous approach described as use of quiet unofficial representation to the Arabs in specific cases.

That development and the decision of the Norwich Union Insurance Company to invite Lord Mancroft to rejoin the board from which he was forced to resign because of Arab pressures were regarded as a victory for British public opinion.

Yuval Insurance, the Government firm which insures all Israel Government corporations, gave the British insurance firm three months' notice of cancellation of its insurance business. A Yuval representative said that the cancellation would be reconsidered if the British firm gave a convincing demonstration of a "change of heart" from the attitude which led it to submit to the Arab pressures to oust Lord Mancroft from its London Advisory board because of his association with firms doing business with Israel.

129 CATHOLIC PRELATES VISIT ISRAEL; SHAZAR GREETES THEM IN HEBREW

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11, (JTA) -- President Zalman Shazar welcomed today a group of 129 Catholic Bishops from 27 countries who came to Israel for a tour directly from the final meetings of the second session of the Ecumenical Council in Rome.

Welcoming the prelates in Hebrew, President Shazar said "we here followed with great interest the deliberations of the Council and witnessed with great satisfaction the spirit of the pursuit of peace and mutual understanding which inspired these discussions."

At a luncheon tendered by the Israel Committee for Pilgrimages, the Bishops heard a report in Latin by a Hebrew University professor of comparative religion on the significance of the Chanukah holiday. The Bishops decided to make a tour of Israel and Jordan, after Pope Paul VI announced plans at the closing session for a tour of the Holy Land by him in January, the first by a modern Pope in the area.

KNESSET REJECTS MOTION TO DEBATE INVITATION TO GERMANY TO FAIR

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11, (JTA) -- Israel's Parliament rejected today a motion by the Herut party for debate on the question of inviting West Germany to participate in the forthcoming Near East Trade Fair in Tel Aviv. Finance and Trade Minister Pinhas Sapir said he had never heard the party oppose trade with West Germany to which Israel exported \$40,000,000 worth of products during the past year.

The Minister said that Israel was interested in expanding its exports and that the Government had instructed the Commerce Ministry last January to inform the Tel Aviv municipality that West Germany was to be treated just like any other country regarding participation in the fair.

The Municipality has not yet sent an invitation to West Germany and it announced that before doing so, it would consult the Foreign Ministry.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS PRESENTS STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO U.N.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11, (JTA) -- A leather-bound copy of a statement on Jewish commitment to human rights was presented here to United Nations Secretary General U Thant by the World Jewish Congress, marking the 15th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The statement was signed by the president of the World Jewish Congress, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, and leading officers of the organization's four branches of the international executive in Europe, Israel, North America and South America, on behalf of 65 Jewish communities and representative organizations affiliated with the WJC throughout the world.

Noting that the Jewish commitment to human rights was as old as the Jewish people, the WJC statement recalled that the global Jewish organization, in its first submission to the United Nations, had "reaffirmed its total commitment to the task of cooperating in the human rights activity of the organization, and to do so on the basis of its faith in 'the common origin, the common right, and the common dignity of all mankind.'"

Since then, the WJC has endeavored to make every contribution possible in the work of those UN organs dealing with human rights questions, the statement stressed. It pledged "cooperation with the men and women of all faiths and peoples who share our vision," to the task of securing the fulfillment of the promise implicit in the Declaration.

Signatories to the statement, in addition to Dr. Goldmann, were: Dr. Israel Goldstein, honorary vice-president; Samuel Bronfman, vice-president, chairman of the North American executive; Israel M. Sieff, vice-president, chairman of the European executive; Eva Lady Reading, deputy chairman, European executive; Dr. Moises Goldman, chairman, South American executive; Dr. Arieh Tartakower, chairman, Israel executive; and Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, permanent representative to the United Nations.

CONTROVERSIAL PLAY 'THE DEPUTY' OPENS IN PARIS; POLICE ON ALERT

PARIS, Dec. 11, (JTA) -- The first performance in Paris of Rolf Hochhuth's controversial play, "The Deputy," dealing with the late Pope Pius XII and European Jews under the Nazi dictatorship, opened here last night in an atmosphere of relative calm. Performances in other European cities have sparked picketing and demonstrations.

Police said that a handful of demonstrators in the audience, who distributed leaflets, interrupted the performance "only five times" before they were evicted by plainclothes police and other members of the audience. The theme of the play is that the late Pontiff failed to speak but against the Nazi wartime slaughter of European Jewry.

Officials of the theater expressed fears that if the demonstrations continued at future performances, they might provoke counter-demonstrations which in turn might prompt authorities to ban the play in the interests of public peace. The leaflets, signed "Prop Pio," contained statements favorable to the late Pontiff by Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, and by the Chief Rabbis of Rome and Bucharest.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON ASKS MYER FELDMAN TO HOLD HIS WHITE HOUSE POST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, (JTA) -- President Lyndon B. Johnson has asked Myer Feldman, White House deputy special counsel, to continue serving in the same capacity and also to advise him on Jewish and Israeli matters as Mr. Feldman did for President John F. Kennedy.

Mr. Feldman has accepted President Johnson's invitation. He will continue serving as the senior official of Jewish faith on the White House staff. It was learned that President Johnson made known that he would follow the practice of President Kennedy in placing reliance on Mr. Feldman as his personal consultant on Jewish issues.

Mr. Feldman came to the White House with President Kennedy after serving on his Senate staff and as research and program director of the Democratic national committee during the 1960 Presidential election campaign. Designated as Deputy Special Counsel to the President, Mr. Feldman works personally with the President and is responsible for vital communications with Congress and Federal agencies. In addition to these duties, President Kennedy directed him to maintain liaison between the White House and the American Jewish community.

JEWISH JOURNALIST ELECTED MEMBER OF ISTANBUL MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY

ISTANBUL, Dec. 11, (JTA) -- Sami Cohen, a prominent journalist here, has been elected a member of the Istanbul Municipal Assembly. A member of the Republican People's Party of Premier Ismet Inonu, Mr. Cohen, 34, was the only Jew to have won a seat in the recent local elections. While all the main political parties presented at least one Jewish candidate, Mr. Cohen was the only one elected.

ISRAEL PUBLISHES ANTHOLOGY OF YIDDISH POETRY IN HEBREW TRANSLATION

NEW YORK, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The appearance in Israel of an anthology of works of Yiddish poets throughout the world translated into Hebrew by Moshe Basuk, an Israeli poet, was celebrated here last night at an impressive gathering arranged by Ambassador Katriel Katz, Israel's Consul General in New York. Eight noted American Yiddish poets whose works have been included in the anthology recited their poems at the assembly which was attended by American Jewish writers prominent in the world of Yiddish literature.

Israel President Zalman Shazar, himself a noted figure in the Jewish literary world, cabled a warm-hearted message to the assembled. "I send my heartiest blessings to the gathering of the Yiddish writers in New York whose creative talents have been brought nearer to the reader in Israel by my friend the poet Moshe Basuk through bringing them into Hebrew literature," President Shazar said in his cable.

"The use of the two languages (Hebrew and Yiddish) was the blessed advantage of the founders of our modern literature in both languages, and the creation of a link between our creative forces in the countries of the Diaspora with the readers in Israel is today a national necessity for both," the Israel President emphasized. "My greetings of encouragement to my friend Katriel Katz, the representative of the State of Israel in New York, who brought you together in his house and Mazaletov to all of you who have lived and will live to see the young generation of Israelis among their readers."

Sharett Stresses Importance of Anthology; Addresses Yiddish Authors

Moshe Sharett, former Prime Minister of Israel and chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, reviewed in a lengthy address the process which separated the Jews in Eastern Europe, two generations ago, into two streams--one going to Eretz Israel and the other to the United States and other countries. He saw these streams now getting closer and even merging in some cases. He cited the arrival of Jews from South America for permanent settlement in Israel as one indication. The publication in Israel of the anthology of Yiddish poetry in Hebrew translation, he said, was also an expression in this direction.

Mr. Sharett emphasized that more than one-half of the Jewish population in Israel came from countries where Yiddish was not spoken, or were born in Israeli families where Yiddish was never spoken. The new anthology "Mivchar Shirei Yiddish" (Selections from Yiddish Poetry), he said, will give this part of the Israeli population the opportunity to get acquainted with the works of Jewish writers whom they never had an opportunity to read in the original.

Ambassador Katz, in opening the memorable evening, stressed the contribution of Mr. Basuk to the building of a cultural bridge between Israel and the Jews in countries outside of Israel. He presented Consul Abraham Avidar who gave the audience an analytical review of the book. The American Jewish poets who read their works at the evening, in Yiddish, included David Einhorn, Jacob Glatstein, Chaim Grade, Reizl Zichlinsky, Aron Leyeles, Kadia Molodovsky, Itzhik Manger and I. I. Schwartz. They are all represented in the anthology.

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MEDICAL DEVICE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11. (ITA) -- Weizmann Institute officials announced today the development of a magnetic device, the size of a pencil point and encased in plastic, which may yield significant advances in diagnosis, therapy and surgery in presently difficult areas of illness treatment.

The device, called a "pod," can be introduced into the bloodstream or bodily organs and guided to an area of treatment with magnetic field manipulation. Officials said it held possibilities in measurement of bloodflow, simple but valuable operations and the removal of thrombosis blockages by circulation in the bloodstream to dissolve clots.

The device, which has been tested on animals, is scheduled to be tested on human beings within the next year. It was developed by Prof. Ephraim Frei of the Institute in cooperation with Institute engineer Saul Libinson. It is now being tested by Professor Ashkenazi and the developers in connection with neurosurgery problems.

SIMCHA PRATT ARRIVES IN MEXICO TO ASSUME POST OF ISRAEL AMBASSADOR

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Simcha Pratt, Israel's new Ambassador to Mexico, arrived here today to assume his new post after serving for two months in the Israeli delegation to the United Nations General Assembly. Ambassador Pratt, who was formerly Israel's Minister to South Africa, and before that his country's Consul General in New York, was met at the airport here by officials of the Mexican Foreign Ministry and representatives of Jewish communal and Zionist organizations.

The Israeli envoy told reporters on arrival here that Israel considered his new post an important one and he considered his appointment an honor. He is expected to present his credentials shortly to Foreign Minister Manuel Tello and then to President Adolfo Lopez Mateos.