



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXXI - 46th year

Thursday, January 16, 1964

No. 11

ISRAEL WILL FOIL ARAB BLOCKING OF JORDAN WATER PLAN, ESHKOL SAYS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol warned today that "Israel will foil any attempt to interfere with its right to draw water" from the Jordan River in accordance with the plan developed several years ago by the late Eric Johnston, special U.S. Ambassador, who negotiated a regional water project with Israel and the Arab countries.

The Premier stated the warning in a special interview with the daily Yediot Achronot. He said that Israel hoped that the 13 Arab rulers attending a summit conference in Cairo to act on a counter-measure to Israel's irrigation plan would use logic and not "adopt adventurous resolutions."

He recalled that the Johnston plan for water distribution between Israel and the Arab neighboring countries was reached through negotiations with all concerned, the United States having been the initiator.

He noted also that the United States had granted large sums to Jordan to carry out its water plan, based on diversion of the Yarmuk, a Jordan River tributary, which he said was already well advanced and a large portion of the tributary's water already diverted from Israel. He added that when Jordan completed its plan, all of the Yarmuk River water would be diverted.

The Premier stated that Syria also was using the Jordan River to irrigate areas on the eastern bank of the River. Asked what Israel would do if the Arabs tried to interfere with the Israeli irrigation plan, the Premier reiterated that Israel will foil any such attempt. "However, we hope we shall not reach such a stage," he added.

U.S. Urged in Senate to Warn Arabs Against 'Extreme Action'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Senator Kenneth Keating (R., New York) called attention in the Senate today to the current Arab summit conference and said that "the United States should take this opportunity to make clear, once again, that the U.S. will not tolerate Arab efforts to block reasonable Israeli diversion of some of the waters of the Jordan River." In warning of possible "extreme action" on the part of the Arab nations, Senator Keating stated:

"Our Sixth Fleet is a potent force. It should be alerted now and in ensuing months to discourage any Arab adventures or military activities directed toward Israel. The Jordan River water plans were originally based on joint Arab-Israeli cooperation. The Arabs have no right to deny Israel a share of the Jordan waters. The tragedy is Arab policies since the emergence of Israel have turned to unproductive hate."

Arab Military Action Against Israel Excluded in London

LONDON, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- As the Arab League summit conference in Cairo to deal with Israel's planned irrigation diversion of Jordan River waters moved into its third day, opinion was growing among experts here today that military action over the issue was unlikely by either the Arabs or Israel.

It appeared that the 13 Arab rulers meeting in Cairo would go ahead with plans to divert tributaries of the Jordan River. The experts here felt that some sort of announcement could emerge within 24 hours. The opinion prevailing here was that with the Arab states in their perpetual condition of mutual distrust, any sort of military cohesion essential for military action against Israel could be considered practically impossible.

ISRAEL JOINS SOVIET-AMERICAN TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS

LONDON, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Israel's participation in the American-Soviet treaty banning nuclear weapons tests became effective today with deposits of instruments of ratification in London, Moscow and Washington.

Ephraim Evron, Charge d'Affaires of the Israel Embassy in London, deposited the instrument with the British Foreign Office. Heads of Missions in Moscow and Washington did so concurrently in those cities.

The agreement was originally signed by the heads of Israeli missions in the three capitals last August 8 and ratified by the Israel Government on December 22. The pact bans such testing on the ground, in the air and under the sea, permitting only underground testing.

U.S. PRESENTS DRAFT DECLARATION ON RELIGIOUS RIGHTS TO U.N. BODY

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Jan. 15. (JTA) -- A draft United Nations Declaration calling on all governments to guarantee every form of religious rights and practices to all people throughout the world was introduced today by an American representative at the current session of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

The draft was introduced by Morris B. Abram of Atlanta. Mr. Abram is chairman of the executive board of the American Jewish Committee but serves in the subcommittee, along with 13 other members, as an individual expert.

The document which, it is hoped, would ultimately be adopted by the General Assembly, would affect directly the Jews of the Soviet Union, guaranteeing to them all of the religious rights which they are now denied, including the rights to have matzo's, observance of the Jewish dietary laws, print and distribute prayerbooks, make or buy prayer shawls, keep their synagogues open, hold national and regional religious conferences, and maintain contacts with Jewish religious organizations outside of the Soviet Union.

The two Soviet bloc experts on the subcommittee--Boris S. Ivanov of the Soviet Union and Wojciech Ketrzynski of Poland--have made strenuous efforts to keep from the subcommittee debate exactly the kind of draft introduced by Mr. Abram. The Communist representatives have insisted on centering attention instead on a draft declaration wiping out all racial intolerance, evidently hoping that the debate on racism would be so prolonged that the group would never reach the religious freedom item.

While Mr. Abram himself favors adoption of the draft declaration for the elimination of racial intolerance, having introduced such a draft, he nevertheless bypassed the Communist filibuster by introducing the document he entitled "Draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance." In accordance with subcommittee rules, the document does not mention the Soviet Union or any other country.

Document Authorizes Free Practice of Religious Activities

The draft declaration calls on the UN, its specialized agencies and all member governments to promote "energetic action through research, education and information" to wipe out all religious bias. It also calls on all member governments to adopt "appropriate legislation with a view to hastening the elimination of all forms of religious discrimination and intolerance."

Under the provisions of the Declaration, all persons are to have the rights to "teach the doctrines, precepts, rites, traditions and sacred languages of their religious belief in public or in private." That clause would legalize the use of the Hebrew language for religious purposes in the Soviet Union.

All religious believers would have the right, under the Declaration, to "establish and maintain houses of worship, religious schools and congregational, charitable and educational institutions for the furtherance of religious purposes." Religious groups would have the right to hold meetings and organize "on a local, regional and international level for religious, educational or charitable purposes."

They would also have the right to "communicate freely with their co-religionists and with other religious organizations and groups, to visit the Holy Places, to send representatives and observers to religious conferences and meetings, and to receive representatives, observers and visitors from religious organizations and groups in their own and other countries." Thus, under the latter clause, religious Russian Jews could be in touch again with Jewish religious organizations throughout the world, as well as have the right to visit Israel.

Provisions Urged for Religious Literature and Kashruth

The declaration authorizes freedom of writing, printing and publishing religious books and religious literature. It calls for producing, importing, selling or otherwise distributing religious objects "dietary foods," or other articles and facilities "customarily used for worship or performance of religious observances." Aiming directly at the Soviet Union where all means of production and distribution are controlled by the Government, the Declaration would make it mandatory on such governments to aid religious groups to obtain "objects, foods, articles or facilities or the means of producing or procuring them."

All persons of any religion would have to be given, under the Declaration, the freedom to "observe the High Holy Days, religious rites, ceremonies and burial customs prescribed by their religious belief."

Another clause in the Declaration would give to all religious believers "recourse to competent courts or other national tribunals for the purpose of seeking an effective remedy for discrimination threatened or suffered by reason of religion or belief." The Declaration states categorically that "everyone shall be free to manifest his religion and belief in public or in private, alone or in community with others, in worship, teaching, practice and observance."

ASPECTS OF JEWISH LIFE IN SOVIET UNION DISCUSSED ON MOSCOW RADIO

LONDON, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Aspects of Jewish life in the Soviet Union, which have been sharply criticized in the West, were the topics of three commentaries on the Moscow Radio, monitored here in the last few days, all of them defensive in tone.

The first broadcast, by a commentator named Adamov, "explained" that Hebrew Bibles were not being printed in the Soviet Union because "they have to be written by hand" and there were no such experts available. Adamov apparently had confused the method of preparing Torah Scrolls with that of printing Bibles, a standard printing procedure.

In the second broadcast, Aaron Vergelis, editor of the only Yiddish regular publication, *Sovietische Heimland*, recalled his recent visit to the United States and said he found anti-Semitism widely spread in the U.S. He proceeded to give figures on the percentage of Jews in the Soviet arts and sciences to prove that there is no anti-Jewish bias in the Soviet Union.

The third broadcast again featured Adamov in a discussion of the widely and severely criticized economic trials in Russia. He admitted there was a large percentage of Soviet Jews among those sentenced for alleged embezzlement and black marketeering. He insisted, however, that "the picture also has another side." He then gave figures on Jews represented in various Soviet scientific, scholarly and technological and other agencies. He argued that the admittedly large percentage of Jews among those sentenced for "economic crimes" was not an indication of the treatment generally of Jews in Russia.

BRITISH CABINET TO CONSIDER BILL ON RELIGIOUS AND RACIAL BIGOTRY

LONDON, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Selwyn Lloyd, Leader of the House of Commons, promised on behalf of the Government yesterday that Ministers of the Cabinet will consider the possibility of an agreed-upon measure against racial and religious discrimination to be introduced in the new Parliament after the next elections.

He made the promise to a deputation representing all parties and all religious and racial groups which was led by Labor Deputy Fenner Brockway who previously had introduced, for the ninth time, a measure for that purpose. The proposal received a first reading. It would make it an offense to discriminate to the detriment of any person on grounds of color, race or religion or to incite publicly contempt or hatred of any person on such grounds.

Mr. Lloyd also said he would discuss with his Conservative colleagues a proposal that the Government make a general declaration in favor of the principles of such legislation. The deputation also met with opposition leader Harold Wilson who said that if the Brockway bill did not become law before the election and that if a Labor Government took power, it would introduce a Government measure along the lines of the bill.

U.S. SEES NEW IRAQI ANTI-JEWISH LAWS MOTIVATED BY HATE OF ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- "The Iraqi Government has never been left in doubt with respect to American views about discrimination and the treatment of minorities," Assistant Secretary of State Frederick Dutton told Congressman Leonard Farbstein in reply to a letter from the Congressman concerning confiscation of Jewish property by the Iraqi Government.

Mr. Dutton said that a recent Iraqi law requiring all Jews to register and obtain new documents proving Iraqi citizenship was connected with Iraq's hostility toward Israel. The Iraqi Government seems in this matter to be chiefly motivated by a desire to prevent the transfer to Israel of proceeds from properties of Iraqi Jews who emigrated to Israel, Mr. Dutton stated.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON DISCUSSES CARE FOR THE AGED; HELD ATTENDS PARLEY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Adolph Held, national chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee and general manager of the Jewish Daily Forward, was among a group of American leaders of the movement for "senior citizens" received today by President Johnson in the White House. He represented 25,000 members of Golden Ring Clubs in New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia and Miami.

In addressing the group, President Johnson invited each of the leaders to help in getting Congressional approval of the proposed law for health care for the aged under Social Security. The President pledged his support for a measure proposed by Sen. Clinton P. Anderson, New Mexico Democrat, and Rep. Cecil R. King, California Democrat.

Mr. Held called the White House meeting "very effective" and said "representatives of the organizations felt a duty was imposed on them by the President to continue to help in bringing home information. This will of course be followed by the Golden Ring clubs." He noted the "very optimistic hopes expressed by the President that the measure would be realized this year."

J.W.B. CENTER IN PANAMA CANAL ZONE NOT AFFECTED BY DISTURBANCES

BALBOA, Canal Zone, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Rabbi Nathan Witkin, director of the National Jewish Welfare Board's Armed Services Center here, who serves as USO area director for the Canal Zone, has reported that the situation at the Center is quiet and there is no cause for concern. Through its sponsorship of the Center, JWB is the only mainland national Jewish organization operating in the Canal Zone.

The Center serves U.S. military and civilian personnel in the area and in addition has been a focal point for communal activities involving citizens of the Republic of Panama. It was pictured on a recent postage stamp issued by Panama as one of a series of religious edifices on the Isthmus. The Center conducts a full-scale religious, cultural and recreational program.

Despite tensions which have existed between Panama and the U.S. over the Canal Zone issue, the Republic of Panama has from time to time recognized the contributions made by the Center. In 1962 Rabbi Witkin received the Order of Balboa, the highest decoration given by Panama, in honor of his 25 years of service. The citation accompanying the award paid tribute to his "social welfare activities which benefit both the Panama and Canal Zone civilian communities" and hailed him as a "silent ambassador who has been able to solidify the civilian and religious groups within his mission in the Caribbean area."

A.C.L.U. EXPLAINS ITS INTERVENTION FOR CONVICTED AMERICAN NAZIS

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Officials of the American Civil Liberties Union asserted today that their efforts to obtain a new trial for five American Nazi party members, convicted on charges of conspiracy and assault, concerned only the issue of freedom of speech.

The officials made the comment in seeking to correct what they termed erroneous press reporting of the ACLU intervention in the case. The five Nazis were arrested when they created a scene at an Israel Independence Day rally here. The officials specifically denied a report that ACLU attorneys, in asking for a new trial, contended that the Nazis had the right to "agitate and provoke" a crowd attending the Shrine Auditorium rally.

"The facts of the matter are that the ACLU took no position on the guilt or innocence of the defendants in filing a brief protesting the constitutionality of Judge Herbert Walker's instructions to the jury," the officials said. They added that the instructions included the statement that disturbance of the peace included "the offense of disturbing public peace or tranquility by any act or conduct inciting to violence or tending to provoke or incite others to break the peace" or "by any act likely to produce violence."

The ACLU officials said that if the Nazis could be convicted under such instructions to a jury than "the rights of any person or group to engage in peaceful demonstrations would be jeopardized. This could include civil rights demonstrators, union pickets and all political or religious speakers."

The ACLU attorneys contended that the instructions failed to advise the jury that the defendants could be convicted only for illegal acts and not because their speech aroused antagonism in others who resort to violence as a result."

ISRAEL TOURIST CORPORATION STARTS SALE OF \$5,000,000 BONDS IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Completion of the sale of the second issue of debentures in the amount of \$2,000,000 for the Tourist Industry Development Corporation for Israel, was announced today by the Tourist Industry Development Corporation, an Israel quasi-government financial institution.

At the same time, it was announced that TIDC's third issue for \$5,000,000 registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission is in the offering. This issue is a seven per cent debenture due July 1, 1983. The third issue, as well as the second, is being underwritten by American Israel Basic Economy Corporation, an investment banking firm which specializes in the development and underwriting of Israeli securities.

The Tourist Industry Development Corporation is the arm of the Israel Government designated to aid the tourist industry of the country with financial support, where necessary. It was established in 1957 by the Government of Israel and has its principal office in Jerusalem.

ISRAEL SENDS AID TO VICTIMS OF RECENT DISTURBANCES IN CYPRUS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Israel has contributed \$10,000 worth of aid through the International Red Cross for the victims of the recent disturbances in Cyprus. Part of the contribution was made in cash and part in the form of food, clothing and other items.