



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

# DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXXI - 46th year

Friday, January 31, 1964

No. 22

## SECOND 'AUSCHWITZ TRIAL' TO OPEN IN GERMANY; 20 DEFENDANTS INVOLVED

FRANKFURT, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- A second Auschwitz murder camp trial, involving 20 defendants, will open here as soon as the current case against 22 former guards and officers is completed, a district court spokesman announced today.

Reporting that preliminary investigation into the cases of the 20 defendants had been completed, he said the trial could begin immediately but the delay was forced by the lack of courtroom facilities. The defendants in the forthcoming Auschwitz trial include former SS men up to the rank of major and two former inmates, both criminal prisoners.

Charges and evidence in the case already fill 20 volumes and hundreds of former Auschwitz inmates have been questioned in investigations that included research in Israel, Poland, East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Only three of the 20 defendants are in pre-trial confinement, the other 17 having been released on bail.

Among the 20 are the former labor chief of the camp at Birkenau and two commanders of subsidiary camps in the huge murder complex. Four are former SS truck drivers charged with aiding and abetting murder by transporting inmates to the gas chambers in trucks. As compensation for this work, they received extra rations of food and whiskey.

Other defendants are members of the camp secret police, and a medic responsible for making up the duty roster of the hospital and medical staff. This roster listed the camp doctors and medical assistants assigned to take part in selection for gassing of inmates arriving at Birkenau and those assigned to supervising the gas executions. One of the two criminal inmates is charged with having murdered Fritz Beda-Lochner, the librettist of operetta composer Franz Lehár.

### Defendant at Current Auschwitz Trial Admits Killing Inmates

Meanwhile, at the trial against 22 guards and officers of the Auschwitz camp, Josef Klehr, 59, a carpenter who served in the camp for four years as a medic, today admitted killing 250 inmates over a two-month period by giving them injections of phenolic acid directly into the heart. In addition to charges that he killed or aided in the murder of thousands of inmates, he is charged with pushing a Jewish woman and her daughter, who had refused to separate on their arrival, into a crematorial pile.

"When I first arrived at Auschwitz," he testified, "I was an eyewitness to injection killings of many inmates in the hospital block. However, they were not killed by SS men but by one of the inmate assistants, Peter Bock, who was the block elder. I saw him lead numerous naked inmates into the cellar and give them injections in their arms."

Presiding Judge Hans Hofmeyer asked: "What were you doing at the time?" Klehr replied that he watched the assistant. "I didn't want to have anything to do with it but about two months after I arrived, I was ordered to give the injections myself. The SS doctor told me either I would give the injections or he would have me shot at the black wall. I did as I was told."

His admission that he had killed more than 250 inmates by such injections in two months fell far short of charges against him. He is accused of murdering that many inmates on Christmas Eve, 1942 alone.

Another defendant, Dr. Viktor Capesius, 56, a prosperous pharmacist, today claimed he was drafted into the Nazi SS from the Rumanian Army and denied today at the trial all charges against him. He is accused of having selected prisoners for the camp's gas chambers, of sending 1,200 children to their death, of ordering the phenolic acid with which thousands of inmates were injected and killed and with giving two prisoners a lethal mixture of coffee and drugs.

Judge Hofmeyer told him "there are witnesses who will come here to say you did many of these things. There are witnesses who will testify that you were on duty on the ramp at Birkenau and other witnesses who saw you forcibly break up families, sending mothers and children to the gas chambers."

## ANTI-JEWISH DISCRIMINATION IN AMERICAN HOTELS DECLINES SHARPLY

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- Almost 60 per cent of the resort hotels in the United States which discriminated against Jews in 1957 no longer do so, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith reported here today.

Describing "this dramatic progress" toward the elimination of religious bias in resort hotels, the ADL said that a new national survey had found that only 9.0 per cent continued to discriminate against Jews in 1963, compared with 22.9 per cent in 1957.

The report was presented at the ADL's 51st annual meeting by Eugene L. Sugarman, chairman of the discriminations committee of the ADL's Civil Rights Division. The study was prepared under the supervision of Arnold Forster, the ADL civil rights director, by Harold Braverman and Albert Weiss of the ADL staff.

The study was based on an evaluation of the practices of 2,280 hotels and motels; 1,972 in the United States and the rest in Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean. For the total study group, the percentage of hotels discriminating against Jews was lower than in the United States itself--9.3 per cent.

The study showed a decline in discrimination in areas where laws against bias by places of accommodation have been passed, and almost a total absence of discrimination where the laws are enforced vigorously.

Almost half of the total number of discriminatory hotels--82 out of 193--are in the big resort states, Arizona and Florida. Florida, however, is not one of the most discriminatory states on a percentage basis. Both states have shown improvement since the 1957 survey when 45 per cent of Arizona hotels banned Jews, compared with the 1963 figure of 22 per cent, and when 24 per cent of Florida hotels banned Jews, compared with the 12 per cent figure of 1963. One-third of discriminatory hotels in Florida--22 out of 61 surveyed in 1963--are in Fort Lauderdale.

The proportion of discriminatory hotels in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin has dropped by more than a half from 34 per cent in 1957 to 16 per cent in 1963. Wyoming and Colorado dropped from 31 to 16 per cent, a change of more than two-thirds. North Carolina and Virginia had 50 per cent of hotels practicing bias in 1957. The proportion is now down to 20 per cent. Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire had no anti-bias laws in 1957 and a record of 56 per cent of its hotels barring Jews. By 1963, all three states had such laws and discriminatory hotels were down to 15 per cent.

In New York and Massachusetts, where anti-bias laws are among the oldest in the United States and vigorously enforced, only one hotel--in New York State--was evaluated as discriminatory against Jews.

### Sharp Decline in Discrimination Reported Also from Canada

Discriminatory Canadian hotels were cut from 28 per cent in 1957 to 14 per cent in 1963. In Bermuda almost every resort hotel discriminated against Jews, spurring educational campaigns for hotel owners and managers. By 1963 only one of the 15 Bermuda hotels surveyed was found to be continuing the practice. The study said that Mexico's record--one case of bias in 1957 and none in 1963--was evidence that such bias was "an Anglo-Saxon heritage."

Mr. Forster said that many hotels abandoned a "Christians Only" rule when it began to hurt convention business. Most resort hotels have a one-season individual guest patronage and seek conventions for the rest of the year. Hotels that banned Jewish guests during the season, had to give up the practice since practically all trade and professional groups included Jews.

Another development was that the convention Liaison Manual of the American Hotel Association, the American Society of Association Executives, the International Association of Convention Bureaus and similar groups, recommended that executives responsible for conventions should shun hotels that practice discrimination.

The study also found continuing discrimination in certain sections of New York against Jews seeking to buy cooperative apartments. The New York Commission for Human Rights has had four complaints of refusal to sell such cooperative apartments to Jews. Two were found to lack probable cause. Two others, one in Bronxville and one in Greenwich Village, were upheld by the commission and settled in conciliation action.

## BRITISH FINANCIAL FIRM UNDERWRITES HUGE PUBLIC ISSUE FOR ISRAEL

LONDON, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- The first public issue for Israel underwritten by a major British financial house and involving a flow of investment funds totaling 18,800,000 Israeli pounds (\$6,267,000) was announced today by Sir Isaac Wolfson, British industrialist and benefactor of Israel.

Calling the financing a "breakthrough," Sir Isaac told a press conference that the flotation is for an issue of the Wolfson-Clore-Mayer Corporation of Israel which will

be underwritten by Philip Hill and Partners, a major firm of The City, the London financial center.

The flotation includes loans totaling \$5,000,000 at 6-1/2 per cent interest redeemable from 1969 to 1988. In addition another 3,800,000 Israeli pounds in equity stock will be taken up by the corporation to release a previous loan to the Tel Aviv Municipality so that the funds can be used for other purposes.

Sir Isaac said that while long-term loans to Israel have been made before in Britain, this is the first time that a public issue has been underwritten by a major London financial house which can be fairly said to reflect the mood of the financial district. He added that "it speaks for the confidence" in Israel that the loan extends over a period of 25 years.

Sir Isaac explained that out of the total transaction, 6,000,000 Israeli pounds (\$2,000,000) will be placed at the disposal of a Jerusalem bank which is providing low interest mortgages for working people. The rest will be invested in industries, mainly electronics, and only part of it in property development. This is a new departure for the corporation's operations in Israel, he added.

The British industrialist also pointed out that such transactions are done with the consent of the British Treasury and they reflect the confidence of the Treasury in Israel. He added that in terms of normal finance, both he and Mr. Clore, a Jewish financier, might have found more profitable outlets for the money but that, in this case that was not their only consideration. In arranging the transaction, he said, the two financiers kept in mind its usefulness to Israel and its contribution to the economic progress of Israel.

He added that both men were well aware that they were on the Arab boycott list but, he said, "we are quite happy and not in the least worried about being on that list."

#### FLORIDA'S SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO BAN PRAYERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Jan. 30. (JTA) -- The Supreme Court of Florida in effect said yesterday that if Bible reading and recitation of the Lord's Prayer in Florida public schools is to be barred, it will have to be done by an order of the United States Supreme Court, not by the Florida tribunal.

The Florida Supreme Court took that stand in ruling for a second time that it considered such practices as legal. The second ruling was required because the U.S. Supreme Court sent back the first decision of June 1962 and asked the Florida court to modify it to conform with a decision in Pennsylvania and Maryland cases that such practices were unconstitutional.

The second decision, like the first, contended that the practices in Florida public schools were different from those in Pennsylvania and Maryland, because the Florida law describes the practices as "good moral training." The Florida court said again that the practice was founded on secular considerations and that the practice was necessary for good citizenship and were therefore not in conflict with the constitutional requirement of church-state separation.

#### Jewish Congress to Appeal to U.S. Supreme Court on Florida Case

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress announced today it would appeal to the United States Supreme Court the decision by the Florida Supreme Court that upheld Bible reading in Florida public schools.

Leo Pfeffer, general counsel of the Congress, who represented Jewish and non-Jewish parents in challenging religious practices in the Miami public schools, said the Florida court's action was not consistent with U.S. Supreme Court decisions in the Schemp and Murray cases and added he would ask the U.S. Supreme Court to declare the Florida Bible reading statute equally invalid.

#### VICE ADMIRAL RICKOVER HONORED IN WHITE HOUSE; LAUDED IN SENATE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- President Johnson presented today the American Heart Association 1964 Heart of the Year Award to Vice Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, the brilliant Jewish officer who was given the permanent rank of Vice Admiral earlier this week in recognition of the role he played in developing the nation's first fleet of nuclear submarines.

Adm. Rickover suffered a heart attack in July 1961 but returned to duty after six weeks as head of the Navy's nuclear ship program. The Heart award is given annually to "a distinguished American whose faith, courage and achievement in meeting the personal challenge of heart disease have inspired people everywhere." The ceremony took place in the White House.

Adm. Rickover drew high praise on his 64th birthday this week when the Senate confirmed his retirement from the Navy with the permanent rank of Vice Admiral. However, he will continue to serve the United States. President Johnson has designated him to continue work as head of the naval reactor's program. Sen. George Aiken, Vermont Republican, said "there can be no retirement for a man of the heart and spirit of Admiral Rickover."

# BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY TO CONDUCT SIX-MONTH STUDY PROGRAM IN ISRAEL

BOSTON, Jan. 30, (JTA) -- Brandeis University today announced plans for its fourth annual Jacob Hiatt Institute in Israel, a six-month foreign study program in the liberal arts for junior and senior year college students.

The Institute, made possible with the cooperation of the U.S. Department of State, will begin in July and conclude the following December. Dr. Howard Sachar, Institute director, stated that applications should be made to Brandeis on or before March 1 and in no case later than March 15. The Institute concentrates on the study of Israel's political, social and historical institutions. It is under the direct supervision of the Brandeis faculty and has no formal affiliation with colleges or universities in Israel.

Students, who live in a pension in Jerusalem, are taught jointly by Brandeis faculty members and Israeli faculty with American training. Courses, except for the summer language study of Hebrew, are taught in English. Classes and seminars are supplemented by field trips to farm settlements, industrial areas, desert drilling stations and port areas.

The Hiatt Institute is open to all students who have completed a minimum of four semesters' work in an accredited college or university, and who will have attained junior or senior status by June 1964. Named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hiatt of Worcester, Mass., who provided the initial endowment which made the program possible, the Institute is an extension of the university's efforts in international education.

# TORONTO CHIEF OF POLICE APOLOGIZES TO RABBI FOR FALSE ARREST

TORONTO, Jan. 30, (JTA) -- An apology was tendered today to Rabbi Norbert Leiner by Toronto Metropolitan Police Chief James Mackey over the rabbi's false arrest and mistreatment in 1962.

The apology was one of the terms of an out-of-court settlement reached in the case in which the New York rabbi received a financial settlement of undisclosed size. The defendants were two detectives and six constables.

The police chief wrote that it was "unfortunate" that the rabbi's "conscientious religious beliefs" contributed to "the misunderstanding that resulted in the regrettable incident." Rabbi Leiner was arrested on a Jewish Sabbath when he refused to go with officers in their police car. He was compelled to do so.

# DESECRATION LEADS TO CLOSING OF HISTORIC MIKVEH ISRAEL CEMETERY

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 30, (JTA) -- The Jewish War Veterans has offered to post members as custodians on Sundays at the historic Mikveh Israel Cemetery, site of the graves of Haym Salomon and of the Gratz family which has been closed because of damage and desecration by vandals.

The offer was made to Philip Margolis, new president of the Mikveh Israel Congregation, which owns the famous burial grounds, a national and state historical site. The cemetery is now open to visitors only by prior arrangement with the congregation for a specific time. The JWV said it would supply volunteer custodians so that the cemetery could be kept open on Sundays for visitors to historical sections of Philadelphia.

# JEWISH GROUP GRANTED CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH WORLD HEALTH BODY

GENEVA, Jan. 30, (JTA) -- The International Council of Jewish Social and Welfare Services was today granted consultative status with the World Health Organization. The action was taken on unanimous recommendation of the WHO standing committee on non-governmental organizations.

The committee consists of medical officers from Colombia, Iraq, Israel, Mali and Poland. The status was granted in recognition of the widespread welfare activities of the Council. Charles H. Jordan, European director of the Joint Distribution Committee serves as interim executive secretary of the Council which comprises six major Jewish overseas welfare agencies.

# JOSEPH GIDWITZ RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CHICAGO JEWISH FEDERATION

CHICAGO, Jan. 30, (JTA) -- Joseph L. Gidwitz was today re-elected president of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. Re-elected as vice-presidents were A. D. Davis and Robert E. Straus. Sigmund Kunstadter was elected a vice-president.

Samuel A. Goldsmith who last week received the Julius Rosenwald Memorial Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Jewish Federation, was re-elected executive vice-president. Also re-elected were treasurer John H. Newman and secretary John S. Whelan.

# BRAZIL'S SENATE RATIFIES TECHNICAL COOPERATION PACT WITH ISRAEL

BRASILIA, Jan. 30, (JTA) -- Brazil's Senate today ratified the treaty of technical cooperation between Brazil and Israel. The pact was negotiated two years ago.