



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

Monday, March 9, 1964

No. 48

JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE ALLOCATES \$10,640,800 FOR WORK IN 1964

BRUSSELS, March 8. (JTA) -- Allocations totaling \$10,640,800, to be given in 1964 to Jewish communities and institutions around the world, serving about 250,000 Jewish victims of Nazism in 32 countries, were made here today at the concluding session of a two-day parley held by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

By major categories, the 1964 funds will include \$7,550,000 to the Joint Distribution Committee for relief and resettlement activities in Europe and Australia; \$2,449,447 for cultural and educational reconstruction; and \$330,000 for the Israel Purchasing Mission in West Germany plus Conference administrative expenses.

The Conference, organized by major Jewish organizations in the Western world to represent victims of Nazism outside Israel, participated in the 1952 negotiations which resulted in agreements with the West German Government to pay reparations, restitutions and indemnification to Jewish victims of Nazism. The Conference is formally recognized by the Federal Republic of Germany as the official spokesman for those Jews throughout the world who are entitled to individual restitution under the existing laws drawn up by the Bonn Government and the governments of the West German states.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the Conference, addressed the parley's opening session here last night, contrasting, in his report, the manner in which the Government of Germany has "meticulously" met its reparations commitments to Israel and to the Conference, with what he called "the gap" in implementing restitution and indemnification laws for individual victims of Nazism. Illustrating that "gap," he pointed out that the claims of more than 450,000 Jewish people eligible to payments under the existing laws are still pending.

He noted that tens of thousands of legitimate Nazi victims are still barred from filing claims because they had come from countries behind the Iron Curtain after October 1, 1953. That date had been fixed as the cut-off period for individual claimants eligible for German compensation under the 1952 agreement.

Reporting on the individual restitution payments made by the Germans to Jewish victims of Nazism to date, Dr. Goldmann told the Conference that the total indemnification payments under the existing German laws reached \$3,700,000,000 by December 31, 1963. In addition, he said, the German states had paid out \$173,938,571 before the present laws were enacted, bringing the grand total up to \$3,873,938,000.

Bonn Reluctant to Improve Compensation Laws for Jewish Victims

However, Dr. Goldmann said, negotiations between the Conference and the Bonn Government to improve the existing laws, and to enact new legislation that would cover those Jewish victims of Nazism who had not qualified for claims by the cut-off date of October 1, 1953, have not yet borne fruit.

Among the victims of Nazism now ineligible under the German laws, he said, are persons who did not succeed in leaving the countries behind the Iron Curtain up to the 1953 deadline. The laws exclude those persons as well as others who are stateless, he said. The post-1953 groups, he said, include Jews who fled from Hungary after the uprising there in 1956 and 1957, as well as "thousands of others who arrived from East European lands in recent years."

"On numerous occasions," Dr. Goldmann reported, "we have called upon the German authorities to place these refugees on an equal footing with the pre-1953 claimants, and to compensate them for imprisonment in concentration camps and for loss of life and health. It is a source of deep regret that, in the final stages of these negotiations, we have reached an impasse."

"As we move into 1964, we are resolved to spare no effort in pressing the German authorities to bring the program for indemnification and restitution to a worthy

conclusion. Such a conclusion demands that all Nazi victims who have been omitted from the operation of the law, or whose claims have been treated inadequately, shall gain benefits due to them in justice and in morality," Dr. Goldmann stressed.

German Government Lauded for Speedy Reparations Payments to Israel

While expressing these sentiments, however, Dr. Goldmann also hailed the "good will and speed" with which the West German Government has met its obligations under the Israeli-German Reparations Agreement, a pact made in 1952 at the same time Germany made its agreement with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims;

Under the Israeli-German agreement, he said, goods, materials and services arriving in Israel from Germany have totaled \$772,559,000 since deliveries started arriving in Israel in 1953. Over 90 per cent of the goods and services due to Israel under the 1952 pact have already been delivered, Dr. Goldmann reported. "The German authorities," he told the parley, "have carried out the terms of the 1952 agreement for reparations deliveries both in letter and in spirit. It is gratifying, indeed, to make this fact known."

As for the Claims Conference, it received \$10,039,148 in 1963, bringing its total, spent since its program got under way in 1954, to \$99,560,189. These figures were reported to the parley by Moses A. Leavitt, Conference treasurer. He said that, in 1963, the conference spent \$1,246,360 for relief and rehabilitation of Jewish victims of Nazism; \$1,246,330 for cultural and educational reconstruction; and \$328,778 for various special projects. The organization, he said, committed but did not distribute an additional \$870,000 in 1963.

Mr. Leavitt called special attention to the grants the Conference has given to the Jewish communities in France where the present Jewish population of 500,000 now forms 75 percent of the total Jewish population in Western, continental Europe.

He reported that the almost complete destruction of communal Jewish institutions by the Nazis has now been "substantially repaired." Today, he said, "Western European Jewry is in a position to meet the needs of children, adults and the aged through a vast, wide-ranging network of communal institutions." In France, he said, about 110 such installations have been constructed, renovated, repaired and equipped with Conference aid, or are in the course of construction and renovations.

\$110,000,000 Allocated by the Claims Conference Since Existence

The report on allocations, at today's session, was presented by the senior vice-president of the Conference, Jacob Blaustein. He pointed out that the nearly \$100,000,000 has been spent thus far by the Conference. Today's allocation will bring the total to \$110,000,000. However, he noted, the 1964 allocation of \$7,550,000 to the JDC will not meet that organization's requirements for services in Europe and Australia, estimated at \$11,596,000.

That \$4,046,000 excess of estimated JDC requirements over Conference allocations, he said, "is by far the greatest ever recorded since the working partnership has begun between the Conference and the JDC." The JDC, he said, will have to raise that difference from non-Conference sources. While the ratio in 1963, he pointed out, was 75 per cent of Conference funds to 25 percent of non-Conference monies, the JDC in 1964 will have to supply 35 per cent of the funds against only 65 per cent by the Conference.

In addition, he said, the JDC will provide \$800,000 to a common fund it has established with the French Jewish community to meet special needs resulting from the influx of North African Jews into France. He singled out, among the anticipated 1964 expenditures by the Conference, a sum totaling \$2,720,000 for aid to Jewish victims of Nazism in France. "That is a record sum," he said, "the highest amount spent in a single country in the history of this Conference."

MOSCOW SYNAGOGUE MEMBERS TOLD TO BRING THEIR OWN FLOUR FOR MATZOTH

LONDON, March 8. (JTA) -- Members of the Central Synagogue in Moscow were told yesterday by their spiritual leader, Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, that they must bring their own flour to have matzoth baked for them this month for Passover, it was reported here today from Moscow.

The worshippers were told to bring the flour to the synagogue. They were not told where the matzoth will be baked, but were advised by the rabbi that they could later pick up the matzoth in the synagogue. Because of the shortage of this year in flour in the Soviet Union, the problem of securing flour for matzoth is serious, the report from Moscow said, estimating that there are today about 30,000 "practicing" Jews in the Soviet capital.

UNITED HIAS HOLDS 80TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING; PLEADS FOR QUOTA CHANGES

NEW YORK, March 8, (JTA) -- A resolution urging both houses of the U. S. Congress to enact the pending bills on changes in the national origins immigration quota system was adopted here today at the 80th Anniversary Meeting of the United Hias Service held at Hotel Roosevelt and attended by more than 1,000 representatives of fraternal, community, religious and labor organizations.

President Johnson, in a message to the meeting, said that "United Hias Service is not only a staunch friend of oppressed and persecuted people, but a valiant champion of the principle of human freedom, fair play, and brotherhood." He emphasized that "in its unswerving effort to make this a better world for the unfortunate, United Hias Service has made the world better for all peoples everywhere."

Congressman Emanuel Celler, chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, told the meeting that "the abolition of the national origins quota system from the basic immigration laws of the United States is as inevitable as the passage of the Civil Rights bill now before the Senate, and just as inevitable as was the Supreme Court decision of 1954 in the desegregation of schools." He emphasized that President Kennedy has presented the proposal to abolish the national origins system and President Johnson has endorsed the proposal and urged its adoption at an urgent meeting of congressional leaders and voluntary agency personnel which he called.

The resolution adopted unanimously at today's conference, pointed out that the proposed changes in the quota allocations system, in addition to removing injustices, will be of practical help to many thousands of our co-religionists who are waiting in various countries to join their relatives in the United States."

Gurfein Reports on Rescue Services for Jewish Emigrants

Murray I. Gurfein, president of United Hias Service, said in his 80th anniversary report that United Hias Service represents the consolidation in 1954 of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), the United Service for New Americans (USNA) and the overseas migration services of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

With respect to the agency's rescue services for migrants resettled in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Australia and other Western countries during the past 10 years, Mr. Gurfein stated, "After the terrible loss of the six million Jewish martyrs, we had the right to deal only with 'normal' peacetime Jewish emigration, and that no new emergencies would occur. You know that just the opposite was true.

"The Suez crisis of 1956 generated the second exodus from Egypt. Simultaneously, the Hungarian uprising made 200,000 homeless overnight, of whom 32,000 were Jewish. The independence movements in three countries of North Africa led to the dissolution of the 2,000-year-old Jewish communities in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. The Cuban revolution of 1959 created a new refugee problem in a country only 90 miles away from our own, and now waves of immigrants come from Eastern Europe. We have to continue to be on the alert, vigilant and flexible, to meet any emergency at any point on the globe," Mr. Gurfein warned.

James P. Rice, executive director of United Hias Service, said that since 1954 when the agency was created as a merged body, close to 70,000 Jewish men, women and children have been resettled by it in free lands. During 1964, he said, "United Hias Service estimates it will provide migration assistance to approximately 6,000 persons from trouble spots throughout the world. At the same time, we are fully aware that these estimates may be drastically increased by the disruptive tide of events, as has happened so often in the past." He expressed confidence that the agency will continue to have the support of Jewish communities in the United States.

W. J. C. . DISCUSSES POSITION OF JEWS IN RUSSIA AND IN LATIN AMERICA

BRUSSELS, March 8, (JTA) -- The position of the Jews in Latin America and in the Soviet Union were among the topics dealt with at the meeting here this week-end of the administrative committee of the World Jewish Congress. Some 35 delegates attended the meeting at which Dr. Nahum Goldmann, WJC president, presided.

Also discussed at the meeting was Christian-Jewish relations in the light of the Ecumenical Council. Dr. Goldmann announced at the meeting that the World Jewish Congress will establish in honor of Dr. Nehemiah Robinson, late director of the WJC Institute of Jewish Affairs, a number of scholarships in Jewish studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The next meeting of the World Jewish Congress will be held in Israel next July.

\$500,000 PRESENTED TO KENNEDY FELLOWSHIP FUND AT WEIZMANN INSTITUTE

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- The American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science has announced through its president Abraham Feinberg, that \$500,000 have been turned over to the Endowment Fund of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowships established recently at the Institute in Rehovot. This sum represents the proceeds from the 18th Annual Weizmann Dinner which was addressed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in New York last month.

Mr. Feinberg said that Israel will participate in the Kennedy Endowment Fund to the extent of IL 3,000,000, of which one million pounds will be made available by the Israeli Government. Honorary chairman of the Israeli Committee for the Kennedy Fellowships Fund is Israel's President Zalman Shazar, and the chairman is Mr. Abba Eban, Deputy Prime Minister of Israel and president of the Weizmann Institute. The Kennedy Fellowships are open to qualified scientists in all parts of the world who wish to pursue their research and studies at the Weizmann Institute.

The American Committee also announced that Mr. Harry Frankel has assumed the chairmanship of its Special Projects Committee which directs a variety of fund-raising projects based on bequests and legacies, in support of different phases of the Weizmann Institute's work. Included in the Special Projects program is a national life insurance plan through which participating individuals and organizations can help assure the permanency of the Institute's scientific work without any loss or diminution of the donors' assets or estates.

'THE DAY-JEWISH JOURNAL' CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY; LAUDED BY LEADERS

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- The fiftieth anniversary of the Yiddish daily newspaper The Day-Jewish Journal was celebrated this week-end with the issuance of a special 132-page edition reviewing every aspect of Jewish life in this country for the last 50 years.

Morris Weinberg, publisher of the newspaper, received greetings from President Johnson and numerous members of the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives, as well as from Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller and Mayor Robert Wagner of New York. Greetings were also sent to Mr. Weinberg by President Shazar of Israel; Levi Eshkol, Israel's Prime Minister; Deputy Prime Minister Abba Eban, Israel Ambassador to Washington Abraham Harman, and Ambassador Katriel Katz, Israel's Consul General in New York.

Leaders of American Jewish organizations hailed the role which the newspaper played during the 50 years of its existence in helping in the strengthening of Jewish life in this country. Zionist leaders lauded the paper for the active stimulation it gave to the Zionist movement. Religious leaders greeted the paper in messages stressing its role in revitalizing Jewish religious life in the United States.

28 RABBIS ORDAINED AT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- Twenty-eight rabbis who completed their studies at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University during the past year, were ordained here today by Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of the University. The ordinations were conferred at the conclusion of a three-day semicha convocation held at the University in honor of the rabbis.

Among the rabbis ordained today was Rabbi Yehuda L. Bohrer of Bnei Brak, the first Israeli ever to receive ordination from Yeshiva University. He is a graduate of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

ISRAELIS PERFORM CONCERT AT STATE DEPT. AUDITORIUM IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, March 8. (JTA) -- Members of the Cabinet, Supreme Court, the Congress, and White House aids last night attended a concert to benefit the John F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Performing Arts given under the patronage of Israeli Ambassador, Avraham Harman.

Israeli violinist Shmuel Ashkenazy and pianist Mindru Katz performed the concert which was given at the State Department auditorium. A reception at the Israeli Embassy followed. Ticket sales and contributions for the concert totaled close to \$50,000 for the Kennedy cultural center.

IRGUN VETERANS IN N. Y. CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLT IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- The twentieth anniversary of the proclamation of the revolt against the British Mandatory in Palestine by the Irgun Zvai Leumi was celebrated last night. The celebration was arranged by the American Association of Veterans of the Irgun Zvai Leumi headed by Dr. David Wdowinski, Professor of the New School for Social Research. Senator Keating, Congressmen Seymour Halpern and Leonard Farbstein and Mayor Wagner sent special greetings to the Irgun veterans.