JEWISH AGENCY GETS $50,000,000 LOAN FROM U. S. LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES

NEW YORK, April 27. (JTA) -- Eleven American life insurance companies signed today a loan agreement with the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., providing long-term loans totaling $50,000,000, with the good faith and credit of the American Jewish community, as represented by the United Jewish Appeal, as collateral. The ceremonies took place in the offices of the Jewish Agency here. The United Jewish Appeal is the single guarantor in this unique financial transaction.

The loan is to be repaid in level semi-annual installments designed to fully amortize this loan in 15 years. Representatives of each of the 11 life companies were on hand for the signing ceremonies along with Max M. Fisher, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal; Dr. Dewey D. Stone, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc.; Gottlieb Hammer, executive vice-chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc.; Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, Inc.; and Jack D. Weiler, of New York City, national UJA chairman representing the Joint Distribution Committee.

Mr. Fisher indicated that the major share of the loans--$44,885,166.22--will be used to liquidate outstanding short-term loans with 97 banks in 39 U. S. communities. The balance will be used by the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., for its current budgetary needs. He pointed out that this will free $4,000,000 per year for the immediate work of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc.


The loan was negotiated with the lenders by Mr. Hammer, Simpson Thatcher and Bartlett acted as special counsel to the lending companies, and the firm of Gouzik and Boulstein represented the Jewish Agency. P. Stokes Gaither, vice-president of New England Mutual Life Insurance Company, and spokesman for the lenders, commented: "This loan is remarkable in that it has been structured upon the established spirit of philanthropy and the integrity of the Jewish people in America. The guarantor of the loan is the United Jewish Appeal, which is just another way of saying that some of the most respected spokesmen of the American Jewish community are pledging that this loan will be honored."

U. J. A. Leaders Stress the Importance of the Loan Agreement

Dr. Stone, stressing the importance of the agreement, said: "The loan will make it possible for the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., and the United Jewish Appeal to eliminate the periodic renegotiation of short-term loans by refunding the obligations incurred by the American Jewish community on behalf of the rehabilitation and resettlement programs in Israel. It will make a larger share of currently collected funds available for current urgent needs in Israel."

Mr. Fisher, commenting on the significance of the loan, stated: "This unprecedented agreement is a milestone in the history of Jewish philanthropy and probably in the history of all philanthropy. Its uniqueness can be focused in proper perspective when you consider that this sizeable amount of money reflects on the financial and moral credit of the American Jewish community in terms of their record of philanthropic giving."

"Behind today's action," he continued, "stands a tradition of human responsibility which dates back over 2,000 years, as well as the well-organized fund-raising structure of community American Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, which have pioneered federated fund-raising in this country. The fact that all life insurance companies have committed commercial funds for this agreement is sound and concrete testimony to the ability and willingness of American Jewry to meet the challenges posed by the needs of their distressed brethren."

While this is the first time that American life insurance companies have loaned money to the Jewish Agency directly on the good faith and credit of the American Jewish community, seven of the companies involved in this new $50,000,000 loan have over the past few years made available $27,000,000 in long-term loans for construction of housing in Israel.
NEW MOVE IN VATICAN ON JEWISH ISSUE EVOKES VARIOUS VIEWS IN ROME

ROME, April 27. (JTA) -- Informal sources asserted here today that any conclusions that the ultra-Conservatives in the Vatican had achieved any success in their efforts to dilute the Ecumenical Council draft declaration exonerating the Jewish people from the charge of crucifying Jesus would be erroneous.

These sources said it had been obvious, even before publication last month of an article by Bishop Luigi Carli of Segni, Italy--justifying the decisive charge against the Jewish people--that the ultra-Conservatives would make a final desperate stand against the pro-Jewish draft which received an overwhelming vote of preliminary approval at the third Ecumenical Council session last November.

The disclosure that the draft had been drastically revised by an ad hoc commission of four prelates at the Vatican, headed by Bishop Carli, surprised Jewish observers because Bishop Carli's extreme stand had never been an official position of the Catholic Church.

It was suggested that the fact that Bishop Carli was selected to be a member of the ad hoc commission might be connected with Pope Paul VI's concern over frequent complaints by the ultra-Conservative prelates of being "majority-ized" by the Ecumenical Council votes.

It was emphasized here that the established procedural control of the Secretariat for Christian Unity, a conciliatory commission, on the declaration on Jews, was unaffected by the activities of the ad hoc commission. However, competent sources said that the possibility should not be excluded that Conservative pressures might influence the text of the declaration in its final procedural stages. A final vote on the declaration is expected after the Ecumenical Council convenes in September.

ARAB LEADERS MEET IN CAIRO TODAY ON BOURGIBA'S PROPOSALS ON ISRAEL

LONDON, April 27. (JTA) -- Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba's recent public efforts to induce the Arab countries to recognize Israel and to negotiate peace will be the principal topic on the agenda of a meeting of top Arab leaders in Cairo tomorrow, it was reported here today from the Egyptian capital.

The original purpose of the meeting had been preparation of an agenda for the Arab Premier's meeting in May in Cairo, Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, now visiting Britain, declared here today that the Arab world did not agree with the Tunisian President's proposals.

Protests against the hostile Arab reaction to those proposals sparked an attack today by some 20,000 Tunisian demonstrators against the Egyptian and other Arab embassies in Tunis. The demonstrators hurled stones and bottles of ink at the Egyptian Embassy while shouting "Death to Nasser," the President of Egypt. Nasser was ridiculed by a drawing of a camel with Nasser's head on it, which was planted on the Embassy grounds as troops and police struggled to control the demonstrators.

Britain Sees 'Some Difficulties' in Bourguiba's Proposals

LONDON, April 27. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Harold Wilson told the House of Commons today that he saw "some difficulties" in Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba's proposals that the Arab countries recognize Israel and negotiate a peace agreement with Israel.

He made the statement during House questioning of the Government on Middle East problems, including the issue of Arab attempts to divert the headwaters in their territories of the Jordan River to deny its waters to Israel, and the Arab refugee problem.

Robert Maxwell, a Labor Member of Parliament, asked what "positive initiative" the British Government was taking to support President Bourguiba's effort to settle a dispute which had been "smoldering for so long." The Prime Minister then replied that his Government "would of course consider what the President was suggesting but I myself on a first reading of it, see some difficulties in what he is proposing,"

The Prime Minister was asked by Conservative MP Sir John Langford-Holt whether he would make a statement on his talks with Premier Levi Eshkol of Israel earlier this year. Mr. Wilson replied with a general statement that the visit had provided him and Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart "with a welcome opportunity to discuss with him, in accordance with the friendly relations between our two countries, a wide range of subjects of mutual interest and concern, especially Anglo-Israeli relations and the situation in the Middle East."

The Prime Minister added that he did discuss the water question "thoroughly" with Premier Eshkol "and of course there are continuing discussions all the time between British Government officials abroad and some of the other countries concerned." He reiterated his Government's view that the issue of Arab water diversions "must be settled by agreement, and that, if there is an event which is regarded as provocative," by Israel "it should be taken to the United Nations and not be the subject of an attempt to settle it by armed conflict or any means of that kind."

JEWS IN SOVIET UKRAINE ARRESTED FOR TRANSPORTING MATZOH PACKAGES

LONDON, April 27. (JTA) -- A number of Jews transporting packages of matzoh baked privately from the city of Slavut in the Ukraine to Lvov were arrested, according to reports received here today.
$40, 000, 000 DISTRIBUTED BY J. R. S. O. TO JEWISH VICTIMS OF NAZISM

NEW YORK, April 27. (JTA) -- The annual meeting of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization held here today heard a report that the JRSO had distributed over $40,000,000 for worldwide programs conducted for the benefit of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, since the start of operations some 16 years ago.

Maurice M. Boukstein was elected president of the JRSO for the coming year, and Monroe Goldwater chairman of the executive committee. Other officers elected included: Jacob Blaustein, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Isaac Lewin, Hermann Simon, and Edward M. Warburg, vice-presidents; David Glickman and Shad Polier, co-treasurers; Saul Kagan, secretary.

PARIS JEWS APPEAL TO GROMYKO TO PERMIT JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM RUSSIA

PARIS, April 27; (JTA) -- A solemn appeal to Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, currently in Paris on an official visit, to permit the reunion of families separated by World War II and Nazi persecution emerged last night from a mass meeting held here to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto revolt against the Nazis.

Several thousand people crowded the huge Paris Hall to pay tribute to the Ghetto fighters. The participants include Israeli Ambassador Walter Eytan, Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan and a number of French non-Jewish personalities.

The appeal to the Soviet Foreign Minister was made on behalf of local Jewish organizations by Dr. F. Menahem, president of the Liaison Committee. He told the assemblage that "it is a tragic fact that, 20 years after the war and just as they are emerging from an unprecedented tragedy, 3,000,000 Soviet Jews are deprived of their culture and prevented from freely exercising their faith."

"We are addressing ourselves to Gromyko on behalf of the tens of thousands of Jewish families dispersed by the war and the Nazi persecutions and who have waited for 20 years for the possibility to reunite," he said. He added that he was speaking not only as a Jew but also as a Frenchman "at a time when relations between France and the Soviet Union are becoming closer and friendlier."

Declaring that anti-Jewish discriminations could affect those relations, he said, "French public opinion cannot remain mute before such an injustice." Other speakers included former Minister Diomedet Catroux, and Catholic Deputy Alfred Costa Floret, M. Catroux reiterated Franco-Israeli friendship and called on France and all other nations to oppose the Arab boycott of Israel which, he said, could prove in the long run, to be more dangerous to Israel than a military attack.

GERMAN AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS MEET IN COLOGNE ON DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION

BCNN, April 27. (JTA) -- Full agreement on all "material" portions of the diplomatic exchange agreement has been reached by the Foreign Ministries of West Germany and Israel, the Bonn Government's official spokesman said here today.

He declared that only some minor points remain to be worked out, and revealed that a meeting dealing with those points was held at Cologne today between representatives of the German Foreign Office and members of Israel's mission in Cologne. Those talks are not yet completed, he indicated.

The spokesman said he was unable to say when and whether a joint Israeli-German communiqué on the diplomatic exchanges will be issued. He was also unable to say, he declared, who will be chosen as Bonn's Ambassador to Israel, if one is to be designated.

DR. GOLDMANN REPORTS TO JEWISH AGENCY ON REPARATIONS TALKS WITH BONN

JERUSALEM, April 27. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann reported today to the Jewish Agency executive plenary on negotiations with West Germany for reparations for Jewish victims of Nazism who were unable to file claims before the October 1953 deadline because they were trapped in Iron Curtain countries.

Dr. Goldmann stressed the urgency of getting enabling legislation through the West German Parliament promptly to avoid another year's delay in claims totaling hundreds of millions of dollars. He also reported on the situation of Soviet Jewry.

ITALIAN POLICE INVESTIGATE DESECRATION OF MEMORIAL ON SYNAGOGUE

ROME, April 27. (JTA) -- Italian police were today investigating incidents in Padua in northern Italy where a memorial stone to Nazi victims on the facade of a synagogue in that city was found smeared. The walls of a building in which the president of the Padua Jewish community lives were also found smeared with swastikas and slogans hailing Mussolini and Fascism.

The incidents occurred shortly after a ceremony was held at the synagogue in which civic leaders and members of the Jewish community laid wreaths at the memorial stone marking the struggle by resistance fighters against the Nazis.

The Union of Italian Jewish Communities has been notified of the incidents. Leaders of the Union are in contact with police authorities in Padua who have taken steps to protect the synagogue building.
CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS PRESENTS "BILL OF RIGHTS" TO ROYAL BODY

TORONTO, April 27, (JTA) -- A virtual "Jewish bill of rights," spelling out the Canadian Jewish community's attitudes toward a wide range of issues, was presented by the Canadian Jewish Congress today to retired Chief Justice J. C. McRuer, the sole member of the Ontario Royal Commission inquiry into Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

Among the items covered in the 30-page, CJC submission were such questions as personal freedom and the police power; freedom of expression; freedom of religious practice; the right to bias-free opportunity of employment, without religious barriers; "private" discrimination; fair practices; and education.

With respect to police matters, the document proposed that "police officers be instructed in the basic religious requirements of minority faiths, insofar as these may affect police action." A proposal was made that, in cases of persons arrested who need to furnish bail, such persons be granted a "parole affirmation" if the bail must be made on a Sabbath or Jewish holy day, when an observant Jew is forbidden to sign his name. It was also proposed that Hebrew Bibles be available in court rooms.

Outlines Requests on Subjects Affecting Jewish Religion

On the subject of hatemongering, the CJC indicated that it preferred that that subject be handled on the Federal, rather than the Provincial, level. In the field of education, it was requested that Jews be exempted from taking examinations on a Jewish holiday or on the Sabbath.

Other requests included: Avoidance of holding elections and plebiscites on the Sabbath; exemption of observant Jews from jury duty on religious holidays or the Sabbath; the right of observant Jews and Seventh Day Adventists to open their businesses on Sundays, if they close on Saturdays; a general, anti-discrimination clause or bill of rights for the Province of Ontario.

"Spurious" golf clubs, "which are in reality public courses, excluding unwanted religious practitioners or races" were attacked in the document. Another proposal asked that racial stereotypes in school textbooks be eliminated. The CJC also reiterated its opposition to religious instruction in public schools, and requested that more attention be given to those teaching Nazism and other extremist, political philosophies, "of the right and left."

The Congress delegation who presented the document to Justice McRuer consisted of Meyer M. Casner, chairman of the central region; J. S. Midanik and Sydney M. Harris, representing the regional and national joint committees on community relations of the Congress and B'nai B'rith; Prof. Bora Laskin, Congress legal committee chairman; and Max Shekter, incoming chairman of B'nai B'rith District No. 22.

WORLD 'BUND' CONFERENCE CLOSES WITH STATEMENT ON JEWISH ISSUES

NEW YORK, April 27, (JTA) -- The principles of the Jewish Labor Bund as applied to the modern era were spelled out at the fourth world conference of the organization which concluded its nine-day sessions here. More than 100 delegates attended the conference. Twelve countries were represented, including delegations from North and South America, Europe, Israel, Australia and South Africa.

After adopting a number of resolutions concerned with general political, social and Socialist problems, the conference stated: "Bundism is the application of the ideas of International Democratic Socialism to Jewish problems wherever Jews live. The Jews are a world-people, and there should be no obstacles to their autonomous, national and cultural development in the countries where they live. The State of Israel is not the solution to the Jewish problems. The Bund is against assimilation, for Jewish secular culture. Wherever Jews make their home, they have to utilize every opportunity to maintain and develop the Yiddish language, Yiddish culture and Jewish life in general."

SIR LEON SIMON, HEBREW SCHOLAR, DIES IN LONDON; WAS ADVISOR TO ISRAEL

LONDON, April 27, (JTA) -- Sir Leon Simon, who combined careers as a British official, advisor to the Government of Israel and a recognized classical scholar in Greek and Hebrew, died here today at the age of 84.

Educated at Oxford University, he served as director of telecommunications at the British General Postoffice and as director of the Postoffice Savings Bank. After retiring from the British civil service, he served as chairman of the board of governors of the Hebrew University and advisor to the Israel Government in several fields.

He translated ancient Greek Literature into Hebrew and Hebrew into English. A disciple of the Hebrew philosopher essayist, Achad Haam, he wrote a biography and many essays on him.