



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

860 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXXII - 48th year

Monday, May 24, 1965

No. 100

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE URGES U. S. TO ACT ON ARAB-ISRAEL PEACE TALKS

NEW YORK, May 23, (JTA)-- The American Jewish Committee, at the closing session of its 58th annual meeting, called on the U. S. Government today to use its influence to bring the Arab States and Israel to the peace table. A four-point resolution urged the U. S. Government:

1. To use its presence in the Arab countries to persuade them to recognize Israel as a full-fledged member of the family of Nations.
2. To continue its firm commitment to the right of Israel to its fair share of the waters of the Jordan and to leave no doubts in the minds of the Arab nations as to the depth of that commitment.
3. To provide Israel with the necessary physical means to insure a meaningful balance of arms vis-a-vis the Arab nations.
4. To continue a reasonable level of economic aid to Israel and to afford Israel adequate protection in its trade relations.

In addition, the Committee's resolution urged the Government to make clear, "as a matter of official U. S. Government policy, our opposition to the boycott and restrictive trade practices presently being pursued by the Arab League and our determination to protect U. S. business concerns in their efforts to combat Arab pressures."

Two other resolutions in the foreign area were also approved, one dealing with Germany, the other on the United Nations. On Germany, the Committee urged two points: first, that the Statute of Limitations on Nazi war criminals be extended to 1975, rather than to the end of 1969, as has been approved by the German legislature; second, that the West German Government "grant equal status" to Nazi victims from East Europe "under an extended Federal indemnification law." The resolution on the United Nations pledged the American Jewish Committee's full support of the U. N. International Cooperation Year, especially in relation to the advancement of human rights.

Abram Charges Arab Governments with Spreading Anti-Jewish Hatred

Morris B. Abram, who was re-elected president of the American Jewish Committee, told the delegates at the closing session that "the Arab states, individually or through the collective force of the Arab League have spread their campaign of anti-Jewish hate." One of the high priorities of the Arab onslaught, he said, has been given to a "massive undertaking which seeks to obstruct the adoption of the 'Jewish decree' by the forthcoming fourth session of the Vatican Council."

Mr. Abram, who was recently appointed by President Johnson as the U. S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, warned that both through propaganda and direct political pressure, Arab agents are operating on many levels throughout the world to advance anti-democratic and anti-Jewish ideology. He cited as an example a copy of a book recently obtained by the Committee entitled "For These Reasons I Hate Israel," by Egyptian Colonel Amin Sami Al-Ghamrawi, which Mr. Abram described as "a 350-page unrelieved vitriolic and Nazi-like slander of the Jewish people."

The book, which is receiving widespread distribution through the Arab world with the endorsement of the Egyptian Government, "delves extensively into the discredited forgery, 'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion,' as a basis for anti-Semitic propaganda. At the same time, the Arabs are spreading other conventional anti-Semitic publications for both domestic and foreign consumption, including Hitler's 'Mein Kampf,' which is supplied to Egyptian army officers. Mr. Abram charged that anti-Semitism is part of the regular indoctrination given to the Egyptian armed forces.

"Currently, the most intensive aspect of the Arab campaign," Mr. Abram charged, "is being levelled against Catholic leaders in the Ecumenical Council, aiming at the prevention of the adoption of the proposed decree which repudiates the ancient charge of collective Jewish guilt for the death of Jesus." Arab campaign tactics include distribution of anti-Semitic books and pamphlets at the Council, pressure on Catholic and Protestant leaders in Arab countries with grave threats to the future of their Church school and social

welfare institutions, and widespread propaganda aimed at Arab Christians, Mr. Abram reported.

Arab Anti-Semitic Activities Linked to Neo-Nazis in Europe

Mr. Abram's report linked Arab anti-Semitic activities to some of the operations and programs of the neo-Nazi movements in Europe. On this issue, Zachariah Shuster, director of the Committee's European office with headquarters in Paris, made public an extensive report on the hundreds of neo-Nazi parties and splinter groups organized throughout Europe since the early 'fifties.

In his survey of neo-Nazi activities, Mr. Shuster reported that in West Germany, at the end of 1964, there were 119 extremist organizations, while more than 50 had been formed in Austria during the past ten years. Though neo-Nazi groups seem to be shrinking in strength, as the older generation is dying off, the strength of these extremist groups and parties, Mr. Shuster stressed, must be measured against the impact of their ideologies.

BEN-GURION WILLING TO HEAD ALIGNMENT LIST IF DESIGNATED FOR PREMIERSHIP

JERUSALEM, May 23. (JTA) -- Former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion announced here today that he would be willing to head the Mapai-Ahdut Avodah election list for the next Knesset (Parliament) if he would be thus designated as the alignment's candidate for Prime Minister, and if Mapai would formally ask him to head its list.

He made that statement to a meeting of the Mapai minority which is opposing Prime Minister Levi Eshkol. However, Mr. Ben-Gurion reiterated his objections to the Mapai-Ahdut alignment, and said he would not accept a candidacy on the alignment election list for the Histadrut, Israel's federation of labor.

Mapai's central office lost no time to issue a statement declaring that only its central committee and the members of its faction in Parliament were authorized to make up the election list and to decide who is to be the candidate for Premier. In speeches today, Deputy Prime Minister Abba Eban, who has lined up with Mr. Eshkol, and leaders of Ahdut Avodah, emphasized that the head of the election list--which would mean designation for the Premiership--should go to Mr. Eshkol.

At the Cabinet's regular, weekly meeting, today, Premier Eshkol formally announced the resignations from the Government of Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Peres and Joseph Almogi, Minister of Housing and Development, who quit last week in support of Mr. Ben-Gurion. Mr. Eshkol also announced, and the Cabinet approved, the naming of Chaim Zadok as Minister for Trade and Industry. That post had been held by Pinhas Sapir, who is Minister of Finance. A Cabinet replacement for Mr. Almogi has not yet been decided upon.

B'NAI B'RITH CONVENTION IN ISRAEL HEARS PLEA ON FATE OF SOVIET JEWRY

JERUSALEM, May 23. (JTA) -- A call for continued, organized protests against the fate of the Jewish minority in the Soviet Union was issued by Label A. Katz, national president of B'nai B'rith, as the fraternal organization opened its triennial convention here today in Jerusalem's Convention Hall.

Two thousand persons attended the opening session, which was greeted by Israel's two chief rabbis, Sephardic Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim and Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Isser Yehuda Untermann. Deploring sharply "the cruel impeachment of Jewish life in the Soviet Union," Mr. Katz told the convention: "The status and future of Soviet Jewry has become the crucial test, not only of Soviet Jewry but of the free Jewish communities."

Prior to the convention opening, delegates and officers of B'nai B'rith participated in ceremonies at the dedication of an addition to the B'nai B'rith Martyrs Forest, near this city. Mr. Katz announced that B'nai B'rith has pledged an additional \$1,000,000 to the project, bringing the organization's total for that purpose to \$2,000,000.

Over the weekend, the B'nai B'rith leaders and delegates participated in two other ceremonies. Near Kibbutz Sdeh Boker, home of former Premier David Ben-Gurion, they dedicated a \$250,000 Library of Midrasna College. Mr. Ben-Gurion was one of the participants in that ceremony. At Tel Aviv, the B'nai B'rith officials dedicated the Eddie Jacobson Auditorium of the B'nai B'rith Building. The auditorium is named after the late, former business partner of President Harry S. Truman. A letter was read from Mr. Truman, revealing that the late Mr. Jacobson played an important role in gaining Mr. Truman's support of Israel's statehood in 1948.

ISRAEL REFUTES MOSCOW CHARGES AGAINST ENVOY; CALLS THEM 'UNFOUNDED'

JERUSALEM, May 23. (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministry here stated today that charges of "insulting" Soviet Jews, made in Moscow by Izvestia, the Soviet Government organ, against Israel's Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, were "entirely unfounded." Izvestia had accused Mr. Tekoah of entering into a heated dispute with a Jew in the Odessa synagogue allegedly calling a member of the congregation "a Fascist, not a real Jew."

NEW ERA IN CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS SEEN AT RABBINICAL CONVENTION

KIAMESHA LAKE, N. Y., May 23. (JTA) -- There is a new era in the relationships with the Christian world and the Jews must be prepared for it, Rabbi Max J. Routtenberg, president of the Rabbinical Assembly told the 65th annual convention of the organization of Conservative rabbis at the opening session last night. He criticized denigrators of inter-religious dialogue.

"We are deeply disturbed that in certain Jewish circles there has developed an almost complete obsession with the discussion at the Vatican to the virtual exclusion of all other Jewish concerns," he said. "It would appear from their statements that the future of Judaism depended largely on what was being said and done in Rome. As Jews, we ought to remember that for us, the word of the Lord emanates from Jerusalem, not Rome, and we have lived by that word and survived to this day because of it."

At the same time, he stressed, "we view with dismay the response in other Jewish groups which calls for retreat and withdrawal from any dialogue with the Christians. The attitude as expressed by a leading Orthodox layman that the beliefs and teachings of our neighbors are their concern, not ours, is not true. As neighbors, we are deeply affected by each other's beliefs," he said. It is "critically important," he went on, "that we engage in a dialogue better to understand each other and, where possible, to modify or alter each other's views."

But there is "one unqualified reservation that all Jews share," he warned. This is that "nothing good will come of any Jewish-Christian dialogue which has as one of its motivations the desire to convert Jews to Christianity. Any suspicion that this still remains the avowed purpose of the Church will nullify and vitiate all attempts at a constructive dialogue. Unfortunately, the Church has not yet been sufficiently explicit to dispel this suspicion."

Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly, addressing the 500 delegates today, disputed the theory of "the vanishing American Jew" and said that, instead, a "new breed" has appeared on the scene. He warned, however, that the failure of the American Jewish communal leadership to provide a "crash program" of support for the training of rabbis and teachers may make the dire prediction of disappearance come true. He advised the rabbis to plunge into the leadership of all phases of American Jewish life "in the battle for Jewish authenticity and Jewish survival."

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN U. S. PUBLISHES TEXTBOOKS AFFIRMATIVE TO JEWS

NEW YORK, May 23. (JTA)--Both Catholics and Protestants have made major advances toward correcting negative portrayals of Jews and Judaism in their educational materials, and toward overcoming distortions regarding the Jewish people, it was reported here yesterday by the American Jewish Committee.

Reporting to the organization's annual convention, Ralph Friedman, chairman of the AJC executive board, said that Catholic and Protestant religious education have shown significant strides toward stressing the positive contributions of the Jewish religious tradition, both in its own right and as the background of Christianity.

On the Catholic side, the report showed, a new series of elementary textbooks for parochial schools is being prepared by the Pope Pius Religious Education Center, at Monroe, Mich. Two nuns head this project, and Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum, director of the AJC's interreligious affairs department, acts as Jewish consultant to the Center.

The first two textbooks of an eight-volume series being issued by the Center in Michigan, Mr. Friedman reported, "are suffused with an affirmative attitude toward the Jewish people, and contain not a single negative reference toward the Jews. Moreover, the illustrations demonstrate graphically the origins of Christianity in Judaism by portraying Jesus, Mary, Joseph and the Apostles and the Disciples as Jews domiciled in Palestine. Hebrew captions are used to demonstrate the Biblical background of early Christianity."

On the Protestant side, he said, a seven-year study, stimulated by the American Jewish Committee and conducted at the Yale Divinity School by Dr. Bertram E. Olson, has been published by Yale University Press. Three simultaneous Protestant projects are under way, Mr. Friedman reported. One is an examination of the curriculum publications of 17 Protestant denominations. Another is the development of a self-evaluation guide to determine the adequacy of racial and interracial content for use of editors of denominational curricula on the elementary level. A third is a continuing survey of the intergroup content of films and other audiovisual materials used by Protestant churches.

HIGH ISRAELI OFFICIAL COMPLETES TALKS WITH STATE DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, May 23. (JTA) -- Moshe Bittan, the recently appointed head of the Israel Foreign Ministry's American division, yesterday completed his meetings with top State Department officials here. During his four-day visit in Washington, Mr. Bittan conferred with Presidential Special Ambassador W. Averell Harriman, with Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East Phillips Talbot and other high-ranking American officials.

1965 U. J. A. DRIVE REPORTED RUNNING TEN PERCENT ABOVE LAST YEAR

TUXEDO, N. Y., May 23, (JTA) -- An upward trend in community campaigns on behalf of the 1965 nationwide United Jewish Appeal and local Jewish causes was reported by Max M. Fisher, UJA General Chairman, in a report to the UJA executive committee, which concluded a three-day retreat here today.

A study of campaign achievements in 376 communities, exclusive of New York City, whose campaigns are underway or completed, Mr. Fisher stated, revealed a total of \$66,476,000 raised to date, for an increase of 9.7 percent, compared to the \$50,476,000 these same communities raised at this time last year.

While the sum indicated above did not include the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, whose proceeds go almost entirely for overseas work, reports from the organization indicate that its campaign is running ahead at about the same percentage as the federated campaigns in other communities. Some 30 top American Jewish leaders, including officers, national chairmen, and executive committee members from a score of cities throughout the United States, attended the retreat.

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, UJA executive vice-chairman, told the gathering that the Appeal was taking a number of concrete steps to help community campaigns increase total giving even further in 1966. "Together with community leadership we will attempt to solicit and secure larger contributions throughout the nation by early December, rather than February or January, as in other years."

Moses A. Levitt, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, and Gottlieb Hammer, executive vice-chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., told the group of the problems their agencies foresaw in 1966, in assisting hundreds of thousands of immigrants in Israel and Jews in need overseas. The two agencies are the principal beneficiaries of the United Jewish Appeal.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY CELEBRATED IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, May 23, (JTA) -- The close parallel between the national ideals of Israel and the United States was stressed here last night by Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg in an address at a dinner sponsored by the American Friends of the Hebrew University and marking the 40th anniversary of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Honored at the dinner were more than 200 persons who have contributed a minimum of \$25,000 in support of the Hebrew University.

Declaring that both Israel and the United States "profoundly believe and act on the principle that their true national interest is the attainment of individual freedom everywhere in the world," Justice Goldberg said that the two nations "share the vision of a better world and a better life upon it--a world of universal freedom. This is the vision of America; this is the teaching of Hebrew University as it is the goal of all Israel."

Professor Milton Handler of Columbia Law School, who presided, announced that Justice Goldberg and been named honorary president of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, a post previously held by the late Justice Felix Frankfurter. Dr. Harry M. Seldin, a founder of the Hebrew University's School of Dentistry, received the Torch of Learning award "for consistent and devoted service to the Hebrew University."

PRESIDENT JOHNSON LAUDS AMERICAN LABOR ZIONISTS ON 60TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, May 23, (JTA) -- President Lyndon B. Johnson last night lauded the Labor Zionist Organization of America-Poale Zion as an organization which "has richly contributed toward achieving social and economic justice in America."

In a telegram of greeting read at the organization's 60th anniversary concert here, President Johnson declared: "As we work now to build a better society, one in which every citizen may realize the full measure of his talents, we can all benefit from the just and democratic standards the Labor Zionist Organization of America-Poale Zion has espoused."

HISTADRUT TO ESTABLISH CLINIC IN HAIFA IN HONOR OF BOSTON LEADER

BOSTON, May 23, (JTA) -- Alexander Shapiro, chairman of the Greater Boston Israel Histadrut campaign, announced today that a \$100,000 Kupat Holim medical center will be established in Haifa in honor of John E. Powers, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Suffolk County and former President of the Massachusetts State Legislature.

Funds for the project were raised at the "Freedom Award" dinner attended by 2,000 prominent New Englanders, including Governor of Massachusetts John Volpe, Dr. Sol Stein, executive director of the National Committee for Labor Israel, who made the "Freedom Award" presentation, nailed the contribution made by Mr. Powers to the cause of Israel.