



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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Vol; XXXII - 48th year

Monday, July 12, 1965

No. 132

GOLDMANN FORESEES IMPROVEMENT IN TREATMENT OF JEWS IN SOVIET UNION

STRASBOURG, France, July 11: (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, expressed his belief here tonight that some change for the better is about to occur in the Soviet Union's treatment of Russia's Jewish community. He warned that "creating the impression that the Jewish people is anti-Soviet would be a historic tragedy."

He discussed the situation of Soviet Jewry in his address at the opening session of the World Jewish Congress executive, which is meeting here with 100 delegates from 30 countries in attendance. The session is being held in the headquarters of the Council of Europe.

Dr. Goldmann appealed to the Jewish people and its friends around the world to continue the public demand for equal rights for the Jewish community in the Soviet Union as a religious and national minority, and to seek to persuade the USSR to change its policy concerning Soviet Jews. At the same time, however, he warned against "distortions" regarding the situation:

"Above all," he said, "we should avoid being dragged into cold war polemics. These we should oppose more than any other minority. We should avoid creating the impression that the Jewish people, as such, is anti-Soviet." Such a development, said Dr. Goldmann, who has been attacked recently for his stand regarding the treatment of Soviet Jewry, "would be a historic tragedy for our people."

Dr. Goldmann expressed his conviction that the anti-Jewish discriminations in the Soviet Union "are not a result of Communist dogma, but a specific Russian phenomenon, due to centuries-old traditions among many sections of the population." On the positive side, he added, are the prominent role which Soviet Jews play in arts and science and the equality of rights they enjoy in many fields.

"Another positive factor which we welcome," he stated, "is that Russia's Jews are officially recognized as a national minority, and carry this recognition inscribed in their passports. Russian Jews are not physically endangered through annihilation or persecution but as the result of enforced assimilation, which is the precise policy of the USSR."

"I am more hopeful at this moment than ever before," he declared, "that some change may come about by the process of liberalization in the Soviet Union which has not been interrupted by the fall of Khrushchev, but is progressing in increasing measure. Another reason for a possible change for the better is the increasing interest taken in this problem by powerful progressive forces in the world, whom nobody could suspect of being anti-Russian."

He called on all "to remain hopeful that the day is not too far distant when the Soviet Jewish community will regain its right to remain Jewish however it wishes to do so, to become an organized group, to establish contact with world Jewish organizations and with Israel, and again taking its position within the Jewish world as one of its main, creative communities."

Warns Arabs Against Extending Conflict; Speaks on Germany

Dr. Goldmann also appealed to the leaders of the Arab states "to heed the advice of President Habib Bourguiba (of Tunisia) and give up their attempts to annihilate Israel and, above all, not to try to enlarge the Arab-Israel conflict."

"Within the past year," he said, "the Arab leadership has been attempting to enlarge the conflict with Israel into a more general struggle with the Jewish people throughout the world." He warned that, if the quarrel with Israel were to be extended into a general Arab-Jewish conflict, "this would be a tragic development."

Touching on relations between the Jewish people and Germany, he referred to the German Parliament's final vote on granting indemnification to Jewish victims of Nazism who could not escape from East European countries until after October 1943 (see Page 2). This action, however, he declared "does not represent a final answer to the great, complex tragic problems which determine German-Jewish relations from the historic point of view. The solution of that issue will require time, as only time can solve the great psychological

and moral questions involved; The existence of Germany now cannot be ignored by the Jewish people, but neither can what happened during the Nazi period be forgotten. Germany must express by its deeds its intentions to eradicate all remnants of Nazi tendencies and all attempts to revive Nazi ideology. On the other hand, the Jewish people should appreciate what Germany has tried to do in the spheres of indemnification and restitution, and not make every German of the younger generation responsible for what their fathers had done."

He added, as chairman of the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, that the Conference has informed the German Government that, now, it has no further claims. He noted that the German decision to spend \$300,000,000 for further indemnification will take years for full implementation. "It will be the duty of the Jewish organizations," he cautioned, "to watch the implementation and see to it that it is generously dealt with."

Urges Ecumenical Council to Approve Declaration on the Jews

On the subject of relations between Christians and Jews, the World Jewish Congress leader first deplored the death of Pope John XXIII, whose passing he called "a loss to the Jewish people." Then, referring to the forthcoming session of the Ecumenical Council, he warned that, should the Council fail to vote satisfactorily on the last sessions' approval of the declaration on Jews, "we should not only deplore such failure." Such a development, he said, "will bring about deterioration between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people."

He also dealt with some dangers which, he said, threaten the Jewish community from within. These, he said, are not only of an assimilationist and cultural nature, but are also due to the isolationist character of certain Jewish communities. Among these he singled out particularly tendencies within American Jewry. He said that such communities, especially the American, "do not participate in direct action with other communities, either through the instrument of the World Jewish Congress or of the World Conference of Jewish Organizations, but act on their own and set themselves up as the protectors of other, weaker Jewish communities."

Dr. Goldmann singled out the American Jewish Committee, whose activities, he said, "are in contradiction with the theoretical basis." He said that the American Jewish Committee "acts, de facto, as an international Jewish organization dealing with Jewish problems in various parts of the world without observing basic principles of the World Jewish Congress against interfering in Jewish questions in other countries without being asked to do so by the representative bodies of these communities."

"There is a similar tendency on the part of other Jewish organizations too," he declared, "and, if this continues, it will increase chaos in Jewish life, bring American Jewry into conflict with other Jewish communities, and create undesirable political problems." He appealed to the American Jewish Committee "to reconsider its ideology and cooperate with other Jewish organizations with regard to Jewish questions."

BUNDES RAT APPROVES FINAL \$300,000,00 INDEMNIFICATION TO NAZI VICTIMS

BONN, July 11. (JTA) -- The Bundesrat, the upper house of the West German Parliament approved this weekend a final indemnification bill previously passed by the Bundestag providing a fund of 1,200,000,000 deutschemarks (\$300,000,000) for the compensation of those Nazi victims who were unable to file claims by the October 1, 1953 deadline because they were in Iron Curtain countries.

West German President Heinrich Luebke is now expected to sign the measure into law and it will probably come into effect this month. The measure was first opposed by the Bundestag but was given approval by a mediation committee of the two houses of the Bonn Parliament.

GERMAN COURT RULES A GERMAN IS A JEW IF BORN OF A JEWISH MOTHER

BERLIN, July 11. (JTA) -- The question of who is a Jew was decided here this weekend as far as German law is concerned. The Supreme Administrative Court of West Germany ruled that a German is a Jew if born of a Jewish mother.

The case involved an unidentified Jewish emigrant who returned to West Berlin after World War II, and was asked by the Jewish Community of Berlin to pay community taxes. The man, who has since left Berlin and is now living in Italy, claimed that he was not a member of the Jewish community since he had broken his ties with Judaism and now professed atheism.

The court ruling upheld the Jewish Community's laws and a Prussian law of 1847 that defines membership in religious denominations. The ruling also held that every member of a community has the right to make an official declaration of withdrawal, but added that the man in question had known of this and had not exercised the right. The court's ruling is final, not subject to appeal.

16,000 REPORTED CONVERTED TO REFORM JUDAISM DURING TEN-YEAR PERIOD

NEW YORK, July 11; (JTA) -- Conversions to Reform Judaism in the New York area have tripled in the last decade, according to a report issued today by the Federation of Reform Synagogues here. A study, based on 10 years of conversion classes, showed that converts have become more readily acceptable; that converts are extremely devoted and dedicated members of the Jewish faith with a large majority joining synagogues; and that marriage accounts for 90 percent of the converts.

The report, covering the years 1954-64, stated that the classes, which were initiated by the Federation a decade ago, had grown in enrollment from less than 100 to more than 300 annually; This year, from January to the middle of June, 150 students entered the course-- 45 men and 105 women; Of this group, 91 completed the nine-week course in basic Judaism, and their conversion ceremonies are taking place during the next few weeks.

Rabbi Daniel L. Davis, director of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues, estimated that, during the past decade, Reform Judaism has converted about 16,000 people. This figure, he said, "has sharply increased during the past few years by several hundred, so that today our annual figure is well over the 2,000 mark." He observed that, based on the registration statistics and information gathered throughout the country, "90 percent of the Jewish conversions are due to marital reasons."

On December 10, 1963, the Federation began gathering more comprehensive data on persons registering for conversion classes, including family background, former religious affiliation and Jewish background. As a result, data gathered between December 1963 and December 1964, showed that of 295 registered students, 205 were women and 90 were men. In this group, 36 people (16 men, 20 women) came to study Judaism without partners.

The religious background designated by the 295 students on the cards indicated that 170 were Roman Catholic, 21 Protestant, 20 Methodist, 19 Episcopalian, 18 Lutheran, 12 Presbyterian and the remainder divided among other Protestant denominations; Rabbi Davis explained the large Roman Catholic tabulation as "indicative of New York only" adding, "I would venture to guess that this is due to the fact that many Jews and Italians work together and go to school together in this city."

FRENCH COURT ORDERS DELETION OF PAGE FROM BOOK OFFENSIVE TO ROTHSCHILD

PARIS, July 11; (JTA) -- A partial victory was won here this weekend by the Rothschild family, which had sought a complete ban against a new book, "The Jews," which, though fiction, was deemed by the family as offensive to its name. Judge Rouanet de Vigne-Lavit, who heard the complaint, filed by Barons Guy and Edmond de Rothschild and Baroness Bethsabée de Rothschild, ordered part of one page deleted from the work because a passage casts doubt on the parentage of Baron Edmond.

However, the attorneys for the Rothschilds announced they would file a new suit, seeking damages and demanding the deletion of other passages. The book, written by a well-known novelist, Roger Peyrefitte, has been selling briskly since its publication several weeks ago. Some critics have stated that the book would fan anti-Jewish sentiments, although M. Peyrefitte has declared he is not anti-Semitic.

SURVIVORS FROM MANY LANDS PARTICIPATE IN PILGRIMAGE TO BERGEN-BELSEN

HANNOVER, July 11; (JTA) -- Survivors of the infamous Bergen-Belsen death camp, near this West German city, participated today in a pilgrimage to the camp site on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Bergen-Belsen's liberation. Among the pilgrims were survivors now living in the United States, Canada, France, Israel and Germany.

Except for the recitation of the Kaddish, voiced by one survivor at the mound where many Jews had been buried in a mass grave, the services and prayers were conducted in silence. Said Joseph Rosensaft, chairman of the survivors' organization, after the services: "Here, on the mass grave, I feel this is a time for silence."

In this city, after the pilgrimage, religious services were held in memory of Norbert Prager, a former member of the Central Committee of Displaced Persons in the British Zone, who died on the eve of the pilgrimage, aged 74.

DR. THALHEIMER, PROMINENT BALTIMORE JEWISH LEADER, DEAD; WAS 71

BALTIMORE, July 11; (JTA) -- Dr. Alvin Thalheimer, chairman of the Maryland State Welfare Board, and prominent leader of the Jewish community who had held, among other posts, the presidency of the Associated Jewish Charities, died here this weekend, aged 71.

In addition to serving the Associated Jewish Charities in various high posts, including the presidency, treasurership and chairmanship of the finance committee, he was also president of the Board of Jewish Education and, during World War II, chairman of the Army and Navy Committee of the Jewish Welfare Board. He was the husband of the late Fanny Blaustein Thalheimer, who died in 1957, leaving \$900,000 for charitable and educational purposes.

DEEP EMOTION MARKS FUNERAL OF MOSHE SHARETT; BURIED IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, July 11; (JTA) -- Moshe Sharett, first Foreign Minister and second Premier of the State of Israel, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel and internationally renowned Zionist leader, was laid to rest this weekend at the tiny "Old Cemetery" here, close by the Mediterranean Sea. The funeral procession, led by Israel's spiritual, political and military leaders, world Jewish figures and high ranking foreign diplomats, accompanied the beloved Jewish statesman to his final resting place from Jerusalem, where he had died Wednesday, at the age of 70.

As his bier was lowered into the ground, Mr. Sharett's two sons, Yaacov and Chaim, chanted the Kaddish; Premier Levi Eshkol and Dr. Nanum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, threw the first spadefuls of earth into the open grave;

The simplicity of the funeral ceremony was in accordance with Moshe Sharett's wishes that no eulogies be voiced or undue pomp shown on the occasion of his death. The deep emotion felt by the thousands who lined the funeral procession route was articulated at the cemetery by David Hacohen, leading member of Parliament and life-long friend of Sharett, who, with tears in his eyes, watched the coffin being lowered and cried out: "Shalom, Moshe, Shalom."

Sharett's grave lies between the tombs of two old friends and comrades in the struggle to found the Jewish State, Dov Hoz and Eliahu Golomb. Mr. Sharett had requested that he be laid to rest there in a will he signed in 1962.

The funeral cortege accompanying the simple, open, black-shrouded, army car, bearing Mr. Sharett's coffin draped with the blue-white Israel flag and a talith, included veterans of the Haganah, the Jewish Brigade, young soldiers, kibbutz members, students and members of the nation's many ethnic communities, attesting to the position of esteem the fallen leader had held in his countrymen's hearts.

The cortege entered Tel Aviv and proceeded along Herzl Street to Beit Eliahu Golomb on Rothschild Boulevard; There Dr. Baruch Ben Yehuda, prominent Israeli educator and principal of the famous Herzliya Secondary School from which Sharett had graduated with the first class in 1912, read an excerpt from one of Sharett's speeches. Mr. Sharett's niece Hilda, an actress and daughter of Sharett's brother Yehuda, recited a poem by Yehuda Halevi; The cortege then moved down Allenby Road and stopped at the Great Synagogue of Tel Aviv where the Army Chief Chaplain, Major General-Rabbi Shlomo Goren, offered prayers; Following this the procession arrived at the cemetery.

Before proceeding to Tel Aviv, the cortege had assembled for a brief outdoor ceremony at the Jewish Agency Building in Jerusalem; President Zalman Shazar read the first Psalm instead of delivering the customary eulogy. The procession then stopped briefly in front of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, where Speaker Kaddish Luz read two famous speeches by Mr. Sharett; One was his address to the troops of the Jewish Brigade to whom he presented their official flag as they mustered in a camp in Italy prior to joining the Allies in the fight against the Nazis; the other was the speech Sharett made before the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1949, when Israel was admitted to full membership in the world organization.

Jewish Organizations Hold Memorial Services for Sharett in New York

NEW YORK, July 11. (JTA) -- Memorial services for Moshe Sharett, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel and former Prime Minister of Israel, were held Friday in the auditorium of the Jewish Agency here. The memorial tribute was held within a few hours of the funeral services and interment in Israel.

Representatives of leading American Jewish organizations and Israeli representatives in the United States were among those present. Michael Arnon, Israel Consul General in New York, represented the Government of Israel.

(Memorial services were also held in Los Angeles at the Israel Consulate-General, attended by many leaders of the local Jewish community. Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman, who happened to be in that city, recited the Kaddish.)

Chairman of the memorial tribute was Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the Jewish Agency-American Section; Others who spoke were Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization, and Pinchas Cruso, honorary president of the Labor Zionist Organization of America, who represented the Labor Zionist movement; Rabbi Mordecai Kirshblum, a member of the executive of the Jewish Agency, read Psalm 90, "A Prayer for Moses (Moshe)."; Cantor David Koussevitzky, intoned the prayer for the dead, El Maleh Rachamim.

Dr. Neumann, calling the death of Mr. Sharett "a shattering blow and heavy loss to the Jewish people, to world Zionism and the State of Israel," eulogized Mr. Sharett "as a pioneer and student, as a scholar and ideologist, as a diplomat and statesman who was the finest flower of modern Israel."