



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

360 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXXII - 48th year

Wednesday, July 28, 1965

No. 144

ESHKOL CONFERS WITH U. S. AMBASSADOR ON LEBANON'S WATER DIVERSION WORK

JERUSALEM, July 27. (JTA) -- The renewal by some of the Arab states of their work on water diversion projects, intended to withdraw water from Jordan River tributaries, was believed to have been one of the major topics of conversation at an hour-long conference held here today between Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and United States Ambassador Walworth Barbour.

While officials declined to reveal details of the conversation, calling the conference "routine," Mr. Eshkol was believed to have told Mr. Barbour that Israel could not be expected to sit by idly until the Arabs' water diversion projects are accomplished.

Washington has been inclined until now to accept the explanation given by Lebanon, where work on such a water diversion project has been resumed. According to the Beirut version, its project is intended only as a "demonstration" to show other Arab states that it is willing to follow the Arab policy of injuring Israel's National Water Carrier by reducing the inflow of water into the Jordan River, from which Israel draws water to help irrigate the northern reaches of the Negev Desert. Actually, Lebanon has maintained, it is working on water diversion only as part of an internal irrigation project.

Now, however, the United States is believed to have understood Israel's apprehensions on the subject and Israel's claim that Lebanon is actually engaged in a project for implementation of the general Arab scheme regarding water diversion. The United States is reportedly still cautioning Israel against rash moves.

OUSTED BEN-GURIONISTS CLAIM MAPAI DECISION TO EXPEL THEM IS 'EVASIVE'

TEL AVIV, July 27. (JTA) -- The Ben-Gurionist group, now known as the Israel Labor List, today said that the decision last Friday by the Mapai Secretariat to expel seven of its members from the Mapai Party was "evasive." The Secretariat has decided that Ben-Gurion and six other Mapai members in the Israel Parliament had "expelled themselves" from the party by setting up an independent election list of candidates to the forthcoming national elections in November.

"If Mapai wants to expel us, it will have to do so through the proper channels and in accordance with the party constitution," one of the expelled members stated. He challenged Mapai to come out with a more clear-cut decision. Replying to the challenge, a Mapai spokesman said: "The status of the seven may be more clearly defined in two or three days. Meanwhile, the ousted members are to all intents and purposes, no longer members of the party."

Meanwhile, the Ben-Gurionists held a public meeting last night in Haifa, at which Yosef Almogi, one of the seven leaders ousted from Mapai, charged that "Mapai veteran leaders attempted to commit political murder against Ben-Gurion because he had dared to introduce some younger party members into the leadership."

"They hatched a plot," he told the 500 persons who attended the meeting, "to liquidate Ben-Gurion and destroy his image. I know, because I was on the inside, as the secretary of the party, when they started their criminal act for which history will not forgive them." He said that "Eshkol will go down in history as the great splitter of Mapai" because he refused to accommodate Ben-Gurion on his demand for a renewed inquiry into the Lavon Affair.

AMERICAN AUTHORITIES GO TO ISRAEL TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR DESALTING PLANT

WASHINGTON, July 27. (JTA) -- Two American desalination authorities, invited by the Israel Government, will visit Israel this week in connection with the developing plans for a nuclear desalting plant in Israel. The experts are Milton Chase, an official of the U. S. Department of the Interior, and Philip Bush, a leader of the Kaiser-Catalytic Co., an organization specializing in sea water conversion plants. Israel is one of 17 nations to actively participate in a desalting symposium, the first international meeting of its kind, to be held here in October. Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior, said that 58 nations have been invited to send delegates.

ESHKOL SEES NO IMMEDIATE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH GERMANY

HAMBURG, July 27. (JTA) -- Full rapprochement between Israel and Germany, not merely on the governmental level but among the peoples of the two countries, will take time, even though diplomatic relations will bring about a normal state of affairs between Jerusalem and Bonn, Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol declared in an interview published today.

On the eve of the formal exchange of ambassadors between the two countries, the current issue of the mass circulation magazine, Der Spiegel, appeared today with a lengthy interview with Mr. Eshkol as part of a special, 12-page report on Israel. The report, embellished with Israel's blue-white flag, provided a detailed report on Israel's population and achievements in a highly friendly manner.

Mr. Eshkol expressed the hope that the normalization of relations between the two governments "will not be restricted to the governments only but will, eventually, spread to the two peoples." He cited historical data about how Persia's King Cyrus had permitted Jews to return to their homeland 2,000 years ago, in spite of the fact that, at one time, under King Ahaseurus, the Jews were threatened with extermination by Haman.

He noted that "the Jews also fought Britain bitterly" but pointed out that "we remember with gratitude that it was the Balfour Declaration that made the Jewish State possible, and Israel and Britain now enjoy close and friendly relations. With time, and if the proper attitude is taken," he said, "this could become the situation between the Germans and Israel.

"The process will be neither easy nor rapid," he emphasized. "It will depend on the German Ambassador to Israel who will have to, in order to succeed in his mission, represent not only Germany in Israel but also Israel in Germany. Hundreds of thousands of people in Israel today have concentration camp numbers tattooed on their arms. Forgiveness will be a long and painful process."

Mr. Eshkol declared that Israel wants no economic charity from West Germany. "What we want," he stated, "is to be able to earn our own living by our own work." However, he asked for Germany's support to enable Israel to become an associate member of the six-nation European Common Market. "What we want from Germany also," he said, "is for Bonn and for German industry to adopt a courageous and steadfast attitude, should the Arabs try to blackmail you into joining their boycott campaign."

The Israeli premier denied that Israel ever asked Germany to guarantee Israel's borders or her security. "This was never even mentioned," he asserted.

Israel to Open Consulates in Berlin, Cologne and Frankfurt

BONN, July 27. (JTA) -- Israel is planning to open several consulates in Germany when its newly-named diplomatic mission starts operating in this country soon, it was reported here today. The consulates will probably be in Cologne, Frankfurt and West Berlin.

Meanwhile, the planning for Israel's new mission was being continued today by two representatives of the Israel Foreign Ministry who have been here for a week. The officials are Zeev Shek, in charge of the Ministry's European desk, and Yaakov Mitzan, deputy director-general in charge of administration. They are expected to return Friday to Israel, where final decisions on the plans will be made by Foreign Minister Golda Meir.

HERUT PARTY TO JOIN JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE; WILL GET TWO SEATS

TEL AVIV, July 27. (JTA) -- Herut has been awarded two seats on the Jewish Agency executive and will join that body next January, it was reported here today. At the last World Zionist Congress, objections by Mapai prevented an accord at that time on Herut's joining the executive, but the objections have not been renewed.

Herut and the Liberal party, which had agreed to run on a joint ticket in the forthcoming elections to the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, announced today that they will also conduct a joint campaign for elections to the Histadrut, Israel's labor federation.

Under their agreement, Herut will get 55 percent of the combined votes while the Liberals will be given the rest of those seats won on the joint list. The list will be headed by Aryeh Ben Eliezer, a Herut deputy speaker of the Knesset, and Liberal Knesset deputy Elimelech Rimalt will have second place on the ticket.

The Histadrut elections will take place in September under the shadow of the rift in the Mapai party between David Ben-Gurion and Premier Levi Eshkol. The Mapai is the strongest group within the Histadrut. The split within the Mapai will also find the Mapai members split in the Histadrut elections.

GOLDMANN DENIES HOLDING TALKS WITH SOVIETS ON CENTRAL JEWISH BODY

JERUSALEM, July 27. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, denied here today that he was conducting negotiations with Soviet authorities for the establishment of a central representative body for Soviet Jewry.

Reports that such negotiations were under way emanated recently from Strasbourg, France, where the executive of the World Jewish Congress held its annual conference under Dr. Goldmann's chairmanship. The WJC leader said that, at various times, he has raised the issue in talks with Soviet representatives, but declared that reports of "negotiations" on the issue were unfounded.

MOSCOW AUTHORITIES PROMISE CHIEF RABBI TO PRINT JEWISH PRAYER BOOKS

NEW YORK, July 27. (JTA) -- Soviet authorities in Moscow have promised to correct several specific grievances long voiced in regard to USSR discriminations against Jews in the Soviet Union, the press reported here today in dispatches from Moscow. The promises were reported to have been made to Moscow's Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, who had relayed the pledges to a nine-man delegation from the Rabbinical Council of America that is now visiting the Soviet Union.

The promises, according to the Moscow reports in the New York Times and New York Herald Tribune, included pledges that 10,000 new Jewish prayer books would be printed; that 20 yeshiva students from various sections of the USSR would be given residence permits, so that they could attend the yeshiva in the Central Synagogue in Moscow; and that permission would be given to the Jews in the USSR to bake matzoh for next Passover. No date was given for the publication of the prayer books. The Herald Tribune correspondent pointed out, however, that, under Soviet law, Jews have always been allowed the privilege of baking matzoh -- but have not been provided by local authorities the facilities needed for matzoh baking.

One grievance that has not yet been solved even through a promise, the reports noted, concerned the lack of consecrated cemetery space for Jews, especially in Leningrad, where the old Jewish burial grounds are full but no permission for consecration of another site has as yet been granted. Not only older Jews, but even younger Jewish adults, were reported concerned that they would not be permitted to be buried in consecrated grounds.

Rabbi Levin told the American rabbis that he had received the assurances regarding the other grievances from A. A. Puzin, chairman of the Soviet Government's Council for the Affairs of Religious Cults. However, Rabbi Israel Miller, the head of the American rabbinical delegation, was quoted as saying: "I am still a little skeptical. You know, all kinds of promises have been made in the past."

U. S. Jewish Group Finds Situation of Soviet Jewry Unchanged

NEW YORK, July 27. (JTA) -- The American Conference on Soviet Jewry today issued a policy statement declaring that, "despite token concessions in recent months," the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union "remains unchanged." The statement reaffirmed the Conference's "determination" to continue protest action in this country against Soviet anti-Jewish discriminations. "Soviet Jews continue to be the object of a policy of systematic attrition aimed at its forcible assimilation and its spiritual and cultural extinction," the statement declared.

Rabbi Seymour J. Cohen, Conference steering committee chairman, expressed "hope that reports of new Soviet concessions for the printing of prayer books, housing for a seminary to train twenty rabbinic students, were accurate." Such deeds, he said, would be a step in the right direction. However, he cautioned Jewish leaders and others not to be "overly optimistic" since the Soviet authorities have repeatedly made similar promises for propaganda purposes and then found convenient excuses to withdraw the initial permission.

The Conference announced an Eternal Light Vigil to take place in Washington, beginning on Sunday, September 19. On that day, special ceremonies in Lafayette Park will launch a nationwide campaign of similar meetings against the Soviet policy on Jews. The Vigil will be attended by leadership delegations from local and national Jewish agencies.

SPANISH GOVERNMENT ISSUES POSTAGE STAMP SHOWING TOLEDO SYNAGOGUE

LONDON, July 27. (JTA) -- The Spanish Government has issued a postage stamp depicting the courtyard of an historic synagogue at Toledo, it was reported from Madrid today. The issuance of the stamp was announced in the leading Madrid newspaper, Hoja del Lunes. In a lengthy article, the newspaper referred to the Jews as "our brothers" and declared that the death of Christ "cannot be attributed exclusively" to the Jewish people.

N. Y. STATE PERMITS USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS TO AID RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

ALBANY, N. Y., July 27 (JTA) -- Dr. James E. Allen, New York State's Commissioner of Education, issued a ruling today holding that religious school pupils will be permitted to attend special public school classes financed entirely by the Federal Government under the new aid-to-education act passed recently by Congress.

Dr. Allen's ruling also held that public schools can now use federal funds to assign teachers to sectarian schools under the "shared time" plan; can purchase supplies and equipment for programs within parochial schools; can rent classrooms in sectarian schools to conduct programs for children from all schools.

Jewish religious leaders immediately nailed Dr. Allen's ruling. Moses I. Feuerstein, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, stated: "The Orthodox Jewish community welcomes this ruling because, under it, the greatest possible benefits of the Federal education act will be made available without discrimination to the maximum number of children, regardless of their school affiliation."

However, the American Jewish Congress is on record as having stated that it would challenge the constitutionality of the federal act on the grounds that it violates the principle of separation of church from state.

INDIAN JEWS IN MEXICO DEDICATE COMMUNITY CENTER; BUILT BY U. S. YOUTHS

MEXICO CITY, July 27. (JTA) - The tiny community of Indian Jews in the village of Venta Prieta, 60 miles from this capital, dedicated its brand new community center yesterday, a lovely building emblazoned with the Star of David, erected for them during the last six weeks by 18 Jewish students from the United States. The North Americans are members of the Mitzvah Corps, a volunteer group representing the National Federation of Temple Youth, the junior branch of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

The Mitzvah Corps, composed of nine boys and nine girls, aged 15 to 18, built and contributed the community center to the Indian Jews and, at the same time, painted the small community's Negev Synagogue and taught Hebrew and English to most of the 120 Jews in Venta Prieta. The ceremonies dedicating the center turned into an emotional scene as the Venta Prieta Jews wept with joy over having their own community center.

Meanwhile, it was announced here today that, due to the intervention of the United States Embassy, Mexican authorities have released Rabbi Leo Abrami, who was taken into custody last Saturday for preaching in the Venta Prieta synagogue. He had been charged with "working" although he held only a tourist visa. Rabbi Abrami is one of the adult advisors of the Mitzvah Corps which had joined the local Jews in Venta Prieta at Sabbath services every Saturday.

PIONEER WOMEN CONVENTION URGES U. S. SENATE TO RATIFY GENOCIDE PACT

PHILADELPHIA, July 27. (JTA) -- A program relating to the American scene, advocating expanded and broadened social legislation and activity was adopted today by the more than 800 delegates attending the 40th anniversary convention of Pioneer Women, the American Women's Labor Zionist Organization.

The convention also called for a campaign of education and public enlightenment on the crime of genocide against the Jewish people during the Nazi holocaust. It urged the U. S. Senate to ratify the genocide convention signed by the nations of the United Nations. In another resolution it urged the revision of the 1924 Immigration Act to liberalize immigration policy and to eliminate discriminatory provision which based admission on national origin.

DR. GOLDSTEIN ARRIVES IN U. S.; WILL OPEN FUND-RAISING DRIVE IN CANADA

NEW YORK, July 27. (JTA) -- Dr. Israel Goldstein, member of the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem and world chairman of the Keren Hayesod, arrived here today for a ten-week visit. During his visit he will open the fund-raising campaign of the Keren Hayesod in Venezuela and Canada.

ABRAHAM REDELHEIM, EX-PRESIDENT OF Z. C. A. DIES IN NEW YORK; WAS 68

NEW YORK, July 27. (JTA) -- Abraham Redelheim, a veteran Zionist leader, died here today at the age of 68. Born in Jerusalem, Mr. Redelheim came to the United States where he became active in the cause of Zionism.

He served as president of the Zionist Organization of America from 1958 to 1960 and he was a former grandmaster of the B'nai Zion. He was also past president of the Histadruth Ivrit of America and served on the boards of the Jewish National Fund and the Keren Hayesod.