



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXXII - 48th year

Wednesday, December 8, 1965

No. 233

U. S. ASKED TO ACT ON GERMANY'S DEFERMENT OF PAYMENTS TO NAZI VICTIMS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7; (JTA) -- Secretary of State Dean Rusk was asked today to intercede with West Germany against the deferment of indemnification for Nazi victims and to note that the Bonn action could affect the climate of the forthcoming visit to the United States of Chancellor Erhard;

The request was made by Sen. Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, who pointed out that "this is a matter of the gravest importance, affecting large numbers of former persecutees who are now American citizens." In a letter to Mr. Rusk, Sen. Javits noted that West Germany had proposed new legislation to defer budgetary appropriations scheduled to be made under the indemnification program applied to 1966 and 1967, totaling 400,000,000 German marks (\$100,000,000) for the two years.

This is the first time in the history of the indemnification program that such deferment of payment was proposed. The effect would be to deprive thousands of Nazi victims who have awaited new legislative authority of the possibility of receiving any payments under that authority until 1968 at the earliest. Even then there is no guarantee that payment will be made since it is possible that the deferment now proposed could be extended.

"Although the proposal would under any circumstances be undesirable, its lack of merit is accentuated by the fact that it is being put through the Bundestag, apparently by-passing normal legislative procedures," Sen. Javits said. "I am told the purpose is to have it enacted prior to Chancellor Erhard's forthcoming visit to the United States. But if this action is taken, it could seriously affect the good climate which might otherwise surround this visit."

Sen. Javits asked the Department to instruct the American Ambassador in Bonn to convey the "deep disappointment which would be felt in the United States if this step were to be taken, as well as pointing out the prejudice to the rights of United States citizens." He noted that "many of these citizens are aged and ill, often as a result of persecution suffered years ago, and that deferment in many cases may well mean that the benefit of payment will never in fact be enjoyed by the persecutees;"

Germany's Move Unconstitutional; Jews May Complain to Highest Tribunal

BOONN, Dec. 7; (JTA) -- Jewish organizations interested in securing compensation from the West German Government for Jews who suffered as Nazi victims may have to appeal to the Federal Constitutional Court of West Germany -- the country's highest tribunal -- against an effort now being made by the Bonn Government to postpone for a year or longer the payment of \$50,000,000 to a specific group of victims of Nazism, the vast majority of them Jews, who were to receive this sum in 1966 as the first installment of \$300,000,000 in payments decided upon recently by the West German Parliament.

A spokesman for the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany said today that the postponement of the 1966 payments will "shake all confidence" in the pledges by the Bonn Government to meet fully its responsibility to aid those victims -- known as post-1953 claimants because they were unable to file claims before October 1, 1953. These claimants could not leave countries behind the Iron Curtain prior to that date, the deadline for filing claims. However, legislation was passed last May by the Bonn Parliament setting up a special fund of \$300,000,000 to pay their claims.

Despite this legislation, West German Finance Minister Rolf Dahlgren announced recently that the 1966 payment would be deferred for a year or two because of "budgetary difficulties," and plans to this effect have been presented to the Bundestag, lower house of the Parliament, as part of an overall 1966 budget reduction. The plans have already passed in the Bundestag on first reading and a second reading is expected in about a week. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, sent appeals to members of the Parliament to vote against the proposed delay in payments to the post-1953 Nazi victims.

The Central Council of Jews in Germany came out today with a statement terming the delay of compensation payments to Nazi victims unconstitutional. Kurt Grossman, representative here for the Conference on Jewish Material Claims, said today that the

planned delay in payments to post-1953 claimants would affect particularly the aged and the needy, and widows of those claimants. These, he said, are "the indigent members of the post-1953 group, who, under the law, would, at last, have been assured of some hardship payments." Failure to start those payments in 1956, he added, would amount to "a flagrant breach of a solemn promise" made by Chancellor Erhard last Spring, when the "Final Indemnification Law" was adopted.

Jewish Claims Conference Warns Bonn Move May Affect Old Claimers

BCNN, Dec. 7; (JTA) -- The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany warned here today that the Bonn Government's plans to reduce the 1966 and 1967 budgets affecting indemnification payments to victims of Nazism would, if finally adopted, "inevitably" affect not only new claimants but also old claims that had not yet been favorably adjudicated by the German authorities.

Those claimants whose claims had been favorably adjudicated would not be affected. However, it was pointed out, there are more than 250,000 "old" claims that petitions have not yet been adjudicated and could be affected by cuts in the Government's 1966 and 1967 budgets. Therefore, the Claims Conference contended, budget reductions for 1966 and 1967 will, if passed finally, "inevitably cut into the old and the new claims."

The "old" claims are those filed by victims of Nazism under the Federal Indemnification Law prior to April 1, 1958; The new claims are those filed under the amended Indemnification Law enacted by the Parliament in May of 1965.

"It is little consolation," the Claims Conference declared, "that they (the claimants) are not to be deprived of their claims but that 'only' about 30 percent to 40 percent of their claims may be deferred to future years. Many of the persecutees are old and may not have months, let alone years, to live;"

The proposals for 1966 and 1967 budgetary cuts affect also the imposition of higher taxes on various services and luxury goods such as "champagne and spirits." Referring to that portion of the recommendations, the Claims Conference stated: "Of all those affected by the budgetary curtailment laws, consumers of champagne and spirits are listed directly after Nazi victims. Those whose lives were wilfully impaired by state-organized crime should not be brought within the orbit of budgetary law. Indemnification has always been proclaimed as an honorary debt of the German people and must be taboo."

Jewish Communities in Italy Protest German Delay of Payments

ROME, Dec. 7; (JTA) -- The Union of Italian Jewish Communities protested today that West German plans to defer compensation payments to a special group of victims of Nazism were causing "resentment and distrust."

The Union made its protest to the West German Ambassador in Rome, asking that West Germany cancel the plans which would defer payments from a special \$300,000,000 hardship fund to claimants, mostly Jews, who were in Iron Curtain countries in October, 1953, the original deadline for filing such claims, and hence unable to file.

POPE PAUL DECREES RELIGIOUS LIBERTY; PUBLISHES PAPERS OF POPE PIUS

ROME, Dec. 7; (JTA) -- Pope Paul VI placed today into Catholic law the decree on religious liberty adopted by the Ecumenical Council which says that all men are free to worship according to the dictates of the conscience. Declaring that "the human person has a right to religious freedom," the decree says that "this freedom means that all men are immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power;"

The Vatican published today the first volume of material from its archives dealing with World War II, in accordance with authorization from Pope Paul VI to do so; Materials on the much-debated role of the Vatican, under the late Pope Pius XII, in reference to the Nazi genocide of European Jewry, are scheduled to be published later.

Pope Paul authorized publication of the documents in response to requests from many nations; The decision was believed to stem from the long-running controversy over the role of Pope Pius; The requests started arriving at the Vatican after the initial performances of a play, "The Deputy," by West German playwright Rolf Hochhuth, which caused widespread controversy throughout Europe and in the United States; The theme of the play was that Pope Pius XII failed to speak out against the Nazi genocide;

A Vatican spokesman said that the publication goal was to shed "just light" on Vatican activities during the war; The first volume dealt with Vatican diplomatic activity between March, 1939 -- six months before Hitler invaded Poland to start World War II -- and August, 1940; Publication of the World War II material is an exception to a Vatican rule that no archive paper may be published before it is at least 50 years old;

ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH EDUCATION REVAMPS ITS PROGRAM; NEW GROUPS JOIN

NEW YORK, Dec. 7: (JTA) -- Fifteen national Jewish organizations including official representation from Orthodox, Conservative and Reform wings of Judaism, have joined the American Association for Jewish Education in a demonstration of common concern about the condition of Jewish education in this country, it was announced today by Isadore Breslau, president of the AAJE.

Terming this reorganization "a truly historic achievement," Mr. Breslau noted that it marked "the successful completion of more than three years of negotiation between the Association and its new constituent bodies." Forty-three local central agencies for Jewish education in the United States and Canada will also be constituent members of the revamped central service agency of the Jewish community.

"Jewish education is today the largest single enterprise of organized Jewish life on this continent," Mr. Breslau reported. "It serves more than 700,000 children and adolescents in elementary afternoon schools, day schools, Sunday schools and high schools. It involves expenditure of more than \$100,000,000 a year, exclusive of several million dollars which are expended for capital outlays. It employs approximately 17,000 teachers, 8,000 of whom are in full-time service."

"However," Mr. Breslau stated, "leaders of the Jewish community are concerned not only with the present quality of Jewish education, but with the erosion of Jewish identity and commitment revealed in recent studies. It is this concern, among others, which persuaded the heads of the 15 national Jewish organizations involved to agree to establish a medium for the exchange of ideas and furtherance of their common as well as independent purposes."

The American Association for Jewish Education was organized in 1939 as a national service agency to stimulate the interest of lay people in Jewish education. It has served as the parent body of Bureaus of Jewish Education throughout the United States and Canada, conducted communal studies and maintained services in pedagogics, personnel, curriculum, and audio-visual techniques.

Breslau Explains Reshaping of AAJE; National Conference Planned

"In the course of the past twenty years, formal Jewish education, particularly on the elementary level, has become a congregational undertaking. This fact," Mr. Breslau added, "was revealed by the national study of the Association several years ago. It became necessary to accommodate the organizational structure of the Jewish community to this new condition. The executive director of the American Association, Isaac Toubin, proposed the reshaping of the AAJE and conducted intensive negotiations with the national congregational bodies and other agencies which lead to reorganization."

A national conference, scheduled for March of 1966, will launch the new program of the American Association for Jewish Education. The development of a national educational structure and system is called for in the plans laid out by Association leaders. Central services are being established to deal with pre-school, elementary and secondary education. Consultative services to the denominational groups will be provided; The existing National Councils on adult Jewish education, camping, and audio-visual materials will be expanded; Pedagogic services and publications will be intensified for use on the elementary, secondary and college levels. Provision is also made for a broad program of field services to smaller communities of the country.

"The American Association for Jewish Education will not intrude upon the ideological integrity of any of its constituent agencies," Mr. Breslau stressed; "On the contrary, it will seek to help each of them to define and achieve their separate objectives within the setting of a communal approach. Our major function will be to concentrate on the needs of the Jewish child, adolescent, and adult and to ascertain how best these needs can be served by the separate and cooperative efforts of Jewish educational agencies."

WORLD COUNCIL ON JEWISH EDUCATION MEETS IN N. Y.; \$100,000 BUDGET VOTED

NEW YORK, Dec. 7: (JTA) -- A conference of 40 Jewish educational experts approved plans here last night to convene in Israel, next July, the first meeting of a permanent World Council on Jewish Education. They voted a budget of \$100,000 for the initial planning for the new global organization.

The actions were taken at the conclusion of an all-day meeting of the World Presidium of the Provisional World Council on Jewish Education. Dr. Joseph H. Lookstein, president of Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel, presided at the conference as coordinator of the World Presidium. He said that \$60,000 toward the initial budget has been received from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, of which Dr. Nahum

Goldmann is president. The Jewish Agency for Israel, he said, contributed \$20,000, while participating organizations have pledged the remaining \$20,000.

Dr. Goldmann told the conference that the problems of Jewish education were world-wide and that, for that reason, a global organization on Jewish education was necessary. Among the problems facing the organization, he said, were critical Jewish teacher shortages, shortages in teacher-training facilities, and lack of modern instructional materials.

Dr. Lookstein said that the constituent organization in each region will be responsible for implementing the programs of the World Council. These programs, to be organized on a world-wide basis, will involve preparation and distribution of texts and educational materials, assistance in the recruiting and training of teachers, provision of guidance in formulations of educational syllabi in administration of Jewish schools, and, generally, furtherance of all forms of Jewish educational approaches.

J.N.F. TO GET 99-YEAR CONCESSION FOR 500,000 DUNAMS OF LAND IN ISRAEL

LONDON, Dec. 7: (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund directorate in Jerusalem has reached the final stage of negotiations with the Israel Government for a 99-year concession for more than 500,000 dunams of uncultivated land in Israel, mostly in the Galilee, Jacob Tzur, chairman of the JNF board and chairman of the World Zionist Actions Committee, reported here.

He also told a meeting of the honorary officers of the British JNF that the terms of the agreement provide that the JNF will pay the government a nominal rent for the land and develop it partly by reclaiming the land for farm settlement and partly by afforestation.

PITTSBURGH CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION AGAINST ARAB BOYCOTT

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 7: (JTA) -- The Pittsburgh City Council adopted a resolution calling upon industry and business in the city to oppose the Arab boycott of trade with Israel which it described as "one of the United States' staunchest and firmest friends in the Near East."

The resolution, which was signed by Mayor Joseph M. Barr, called attention to the restrictive policy of the Arab states which threaten or attempt to boycott commercial and industrial firms that do business with Israel. The City Council urged businessmen here to ignore the Arab boycott and not to supply any information under Arab threats.

LATIN AMERICANS COMPLETE COURSES IN ISRAEL UNDER O.A.S. SPONSORSHIP

JERUSALEM, Dec. 7: (JTA) -- Forty participants from 20 Latin American countries completed here today two courses on productivity and cooperation given in Israel under the sponsorship of the Organization of American States. Each course lasted three weeks.

At commencement exercises for the trainees, Alfred Pontes, representing the secretary-general of the O.A.S., greeted Israel on behalf of the organization. He declared that "Israel has done a very good job," and promised to conduct further seminars in this country. The graduation ceremonies were attended, among others, by the ambassadors from 11 South American governments.

JEWISH POET 'LIQUIDATED' BY STALIN IS HONORED IN RUSSIA POSTHUMOUSLY

LONDON, Dec. 5: (JTA) -- Soviet authorities and prominent Soviet writers participated in a series of special honors commemorating the 70th anniversary of the birth of the late Peretz Markish, one of the USSR's leading Yiddish writers, who was executed during the Stalin purge of Jewish intellectuals begun by the late dictator in 1948, according to information received here today from Moscow.

The anniversary of the famous Yiddish poet was celebrated in his home town, Polonye, Volyyn, where a street was named in honor of Markish. At the same time, a Markish memorial meeting was held in the Moscow House of Writers, where addresses on the significance of Markish's works were delivered by Ilya Ehrenburg and Alexi Surkov. The proceedings of the memorial meeting were broadcast by Radio Moscow.

FIVE SWEDISH JEWS HONORED; ONE DIES SUDDENLY AFTER AWARD IS ANNOUNCED

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 7: (JTA) -- Danish Supreme Court Judge Sigurd Dennemark and Ragnar Sachs, Stockholm department store director, were named Commanders of the Grand Cross of the North Star Order of Sweden on King Gustav's birthday list. They were among five Swedish Jews honored on the occasion.

Prof. Rolf Luft was named a Commander of the North Star Order. Harald Schlasberg and Robert Aperia, both business leaders, were named Knights of the Vasas Order First Class. Judge Dennemark died suddenly shortly after the awards were announced.