



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol: XXXII - 48th year

Wednesday, December 15, 1965

No: 238

SECOND AUSCHWITZ TRIAL OPENS IN GERMANY; ACCUSED NAZI SCBS IN COURT

FRANKFURT, Dec. 14: (JTA) -- Wilhelm Burger, 61, an official at the Auschwitz death camp charged with providing the poison gas used to kill millions of victims there, sobbed in self-pity in the dock as the second trial of Auschwitz personnel began here today.

Wringing his hands, he denied doing any wrong and stammered that "I...we...didn't know about all the killing" -- a statement that moved presiding Judge Emil Opper to tell the former Nazi "I don't believe you."

Burger is one of three defendants in the current trial. The other two are Gerhardt Neuberger, 56, charged with complicity in selecting victims, and Joseph Erber, 68, charged with selecting women for death. Between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 victims, most of them Jews, died at the death camp during the war.

Last August, after a trial that lasted 21 months, six of 20 Auschwitz staff members were sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor, 10 received varying terms, one received a special sentence because he was a minor at the time and three were acquitted. The indictment charged that Burger ordered and kept records on the Zyklon-B gas, as well as with joining with the other former SS men in picking victims for death.

Weeping throughout his testimony, Burger testified he had been without work in 1932 and thus joined the SS. He sobbed as he told of his postwar days in American and Polish jails. His tears rolled down his cheeks as he contended he only supplied food and housing for SS and Gestapo men stationed at the death camp in occupied Poland.

West German popular resentment over the war crimes trials and the hostile reactions they generate in other countries was manifested in the sparse attendance at the opening trial session when only about one fourth of spectator seats were filled. The trial is being conducted in a side street courtroom. A Jewish survivor who is now residing in the United States is scheduled to open prosecution testimony on December 28. He is Norbert Wollheim of Fresh Meadows, N. Y.

Meanwhile it was officially announced in Bonn today that more than 100 tape recordings of the testimony of all witnesses who appeared at the last long trial of Auschwitz death camp personnel will be preserved for use in possible future investigations.

BONN GOVERNMENT ASSAILED FOR EVADING MORAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE JEWS

NEW YORK, Dec. 14: (JTA) -- The West German Government was assailed here today on two counts of evading their "moral obligations" to the Jewish people. Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and president of the American Jewish Congress, leveled the criticism on the eve of the arrival here of Chancellor Ludwig Erhard for discussions with President Johnson.

The Jewish leader charged Erhard's Government with "inexplicable and unustificable delay" in arranging economic negotiations with Israel following the conclusion earlier this year of diplomatic relations. He also termed the action of the West German Parliament "shocking" in deferring compensation payments to certain categories of Nazi victims until 1968 "for reasons of economy."

Dr. Prinz said that the deferment of payments would "impose severe and direct hardships upon many Nazi victims who are destitute, infirm and elderly and upon many whose physical rehabilitation and retraining waits upon such indemnification for injuries and losses sustained at the hands of the German people under Hitler."

He urged that Chancellor Erhard continue to put "moral principle" above petty politics, suggesting that the German leader "take whatever steps are required to reverse the recent action of the Bundestag" with respect to the indemnification of Nazi victims; He also urged the West German Chancellor to "act decisively to ensure that the long-delayed economic negotiations with Israel be initiated at once."

ESHKOL TO PRESENT HIS NEW CABINET TO KNESET; WILL NOT DELIVER SPEECH

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14; (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, who has been conducting Cabinet negotiations from his room in Hadassah Hospital, plans to present a new Government to Parliament on December 27, it was indicated today.

The Premier was hospitalized December 4 for rest and observation reportedly stemming from the strenuous election campaign which ended November 2 with a resounding victory for his Mapai-Achdut Avoda slate.

The Premier, who expects to leave the hospital before or during the coming weekend will not, however, deliver the programmatic speech normally presented by a Premier to Parliament in offering a new coalition. The speech will be printed and given to each member of Parliament instead.

PRESIDENT OF TUNISIA RESTATES HIS POSITION ON ARAB-ISRAEL COEXISTENCE

LONDON, Dec. 14; (JTA) -- Tunisia's President Habib Bourguiba, who proposed last Spring that Israel and the Arab states start negotiating about peace, made it clear in an interview published here today that his plan envisaged that "a portion of Israeli territory must be returned to the Arabs." The interview appeared in the quarterly, Views, together with answers by Abba Eban, Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, to President Bourguiba's statements:

Referring to Arab-Israeli relations, Mr. Bourguiba said: "I thought it would be better to find a suitable platform which would attract world sympathy and international opinion and which would be an improvement as compared to the present situation the Arabs are in; This could lead to a reasonable and lasting solution, the construction of peace between the countries in the area; I advocated a return to United Nations legality, respect for U. N. decisions:

"There is a portion of Israeli territory which must be returned to the Arabs; I know that Israel would not accept this easily, but it was still worth suggesting," he declared. Asked whether he thought it would be possible in the future to negotiate with the Israelis without preconditions, he said: "I would rather not fight with people who are obstinate. I would rather look after my own country. My proposals had been made to ensure at least a minimum of peaceful coexistence between existing elements. The policy of hatred and bitterness has achieved nothing in 17 years."

Mr. Eban, in answer to questions about Israel's reaction to the Bourguiba proposals, said: "Nothing could be more uncongenial to the success of the Bourguiba initiative than expressions of public embrace from Israel. Our reply was that we were prepared to negotiate with any Arab state on any question. What we cannot accept is that we must make prime concessions in order to win their arrival at the conference table."

Regarding the Arab refugee question, Mr. Eban stated: "The moral consideration must impel us only to adopt those solutions which make for the peace of the Middle East and the welfare of the refugees, and forbid us to compound the sufferings of the past by creating new tensions for the future; I don't believe that any statement by Israel about her willingness to take back a fraction of the refugees would advance peace by a single step. But, if the Arab states were to say 'we are prepared for an international solution of the refugee problem in which everybody must play his part' -- I am sure there would be a definition of an Israeli contribution."

CHANGES IN ISRAEL'S LIBEL LAW RECOMMENDED BY PUBLIC COMMITTEE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 14; (JTA) -- The public committee headed by Supreme Court Justice Witkon which was named to review objections to the press libel law adopted earlier this year, accepted today many of the objections and recommended far-reaching changes in the law:

Among the suggested changes were clearer definitions of violations and restriction of the scope of the court's authority as to what was justified in the extent of details published. The committee also accepted the objections to clauses making writers and distributors equally responsible with editors.

GERMAN DIPLOMAT IN ISRAEL LEAVES FOR BONN TO CLEAR HIS PAST RECORD

TEL AVIV, Dec. 14; (JTA) -- Alexander Toeroek, the Counsellor of the West German Embassy here left by plane today for Bonn in his fight to clear himself of charges that he had been a wartime member of the Hungarian Fascist Party, the Arrow Cross.

The envoy arranged to have disciplinary charges instituted against him by the West German Foreign Office as a means of establishing the facts and to sustain his flat denial of the charge.

U. S. SUPREME COURT BACKS BAN ON VOLUNTARY PRAYER IN SCHOOLS; IS LAUDED

NEW YORK, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- A Supreme Court decision yesterday upholding a New York ban on voluntary recitation of a religious nursery prayer in public schools was lauded today by the head of a federation representing 440 Parent-and-Teacher Associations in New York City.

Directors of the Public Education Association and the New York Civil Liberties Union also hailed the decision, which stemmed from a suit by parents against a public school principal in Whitestone, Queens. He stopped kindergarten pupils from reciting "God is great, God is good, and we thank Him for our food" before eating milk and cookies each morning.

Mrs. Florence Flast, president of the United Parents Association, in praising the Supreme Court stand, said: "We have always opposed prayers in the schools, including the 'voluntary' prayer because it cannot really be voluntary. The child feels under pressure by the teacher." Frederick C. McLaughlin, director of the Public Education Association, said that saying prayers in school by rote, "in an atmosphere that is non-religious, detracts from the prayer itself."

Experts called the Supreme Court ruling the furthest extension to date of the school prayer prohibition since the Court ruled in 1962 that state-composed prayers were unconstitutional. In 1963, it barred state rules requiring classroom recitation of the Lord's Prayer and devotional Bible reading.

Francis Buono, chairman of the Queens parents group which was formed to fight the New York state law against school prayers, called the High Court stand "a terrible ruling." He declared that "now, for the first time, it is clearly established that no prayer -- voluntary or involuntary -- may be heard in the public schools of the land."

He expressed the belief that the High Court ruling would spur advocates of a Constitutional amendment to permit school prayer. The Queens group, known as PRAY -- for Prayer Rights for American Youth -- was set up in 1962 and more than 1,000 families in the Queens community contributed funds to carry on the court fight. Mr. Buono said the legal battle had cost nearly \$10,000.

The suit was brought by parents of 21 pupils in P. S. 184 after Principal Elihu Oshinsky ordered recitation of the nursery prayer stopped in September, 1962. He said he was acting in accordance with a New York City Board of Education decision. Federal District Judge Walter Bruchhausen ruled in favor of the parents, who included Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Greek Orthodox and Armenian Apostolics. That ruling was reversed by the Court of Appeals of the Second Federal Circuit. The Supreme Court, by its unanimous decision yesterday, left standing the Appeals Court ruling.

U. S. TO AUCTION OFF ADDRESS NAMEPLATES OF ROCKWELL'S SUPPORTERS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- The address nameplates listing the supporters of the American Nazi Party throughout the world are among the seized property of the George Rockwell group to be auctioned off soon by the U. S. Internal Revenue Service, it was learned today.

The Nazi office equipment and supplies were confiscated by the Government for unpaid taxes. Announcement of the exact date of the auction has not been made. Ten days prior notice are required by law. Rockwell meanwhile made known that he is attempting to obtain a Federal court order to prevent the auction and regain his records and equipment.

The Nazi leader today filed a damage suit for \$100,000 against the Federal Government and named Treasury Secretary Fowler as defendant. He said he deserves compensation because of damage allegedly sustained when the Internal Revenue Service seized and padlocked his headquarters in Arlington, Va., on December 3. He made known that he is seeking a meeting with the Treasury Secretary to discuss a restraining order and injunction also sought by the Nazis to prevent the forthcoming auction of the Nazi properties.

ISRAEL BANS AMERICAN FILM BECAUSE EX-NAZI PLAYS THE TITLE ROLE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- The Israel Film Censorship Board decided today to ban the further showing in Israel of the American-made film, "Goldfinger" because Gert Froebe, who plays the title role, was a member of the Nazi party. The film, which has been showing in Tel Aviv for the past five weeks, has been drawing capacity audiences.

SYNAGOGUE IN FRENCH CITY SMEARED WITH SWASTIKAS; POLICE INVESTIGATE

PARIS, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- The walls of the synagogue in Lille were found today daubed with swastikas and several Stars of David with the word "Jew" inside. A police search was started for the culprits.

YOUNG REPUBLICAN LEADERS, CHARGED WITH ANTI-SEMITISM, RESIGN FROM PARTY

LCS ANGELES, Dec. 14: (JTA) -- George King, Jr., president of the Long Beach Young Republicans, and Ray Drake, corresponding secretary, both of whom were charged with anti-Semitic views and actions, submitted their resignations from the local party organization.

Mr. King and Mr. Drake announced their resignations shortly before a resolution to oust them was adopted unanimously by the Los Angeles County Young Republicans. Mr. Drake was reported to have said that Hitler was a good man and he was also charged with attending American Nazi party meetings and picketing in Nazi uniform. Mr. King said that he was still doing research on Hitler.

JEWS IN SO. AFRICA LOSE ONE SEAT IN SENATE; WILL HAVE ONLY ONE MEMBER

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 14: (JTA) -- With the completion of the organization of the South African Senate today, it developed that only one Jew will serve on that body, instead of two in the previous Senate. The Jewish Senator is Dr. E. B. Woolf, of the United Party.

The Senate is composed of 44 members chosen by the electoral college and 10 nominated by the President. In his list, the President nominated not a single Jew. Dr. Woolf had been a member of the previous Senate and was reelected. The other Jewish member of the former Senate was Major A. E. Berman.

PROTESTANT LEADER HONORED IN GERMANY FOR AIDING JEWS UNDER NAZIS

BERLIN, Dec. 14: (JTA) -- Dr. Heinrich Grueter, one of West Germany's outstanding Protestant clergymen and a noted friend of the Jewish people, was awarded here the annual Karl von Cssietsky Medal last year for his many years of service "to humanity and, particularly, to the Jewish people."

The award was bestowed at ceremonies conducted at the Jewish Community Center here by the International League for Human Rights. Among those who sent messages of congratulations to Dr. Grueter were Ambassador Asher Ben-Nathan, Israel's envoy to Bonn, and Dr. Werner Stein, West Berlin Senator in charge of science and art.

The principal speaker, who presented the medal to Pastor Grueter, was Joseph Wulf, author and historian, and Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent here, who received the Karl von Cssietsky Medal last year. Mr. Wulf lauded the clergyman for his devotion to human rights, mentioning especially his work of rescuing Jews during the Nazi regime and the fact that the Nazis had imprisoned Dr. Grueter at Buchenwald for those activities.

JUSTICE DOUGLAS LAUDS ISRAEL FOR AIDING OTHER YOUNG NATIONS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14: (JTA) -- Israel was cited last night for providing the world the "Peace Corps" concept by aiding other developing nations, in an address by Supreme Court Justice William C. Douglas, who was awarded the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award at an Israel Bond dinner.

The award was presented by Ambassador James Roosevelt, U. S. delegate to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and noted Mr. Douglas' "outstanding service to humanity and friendship for Israel in the spirit of Eleanor Roosevelt." Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman said the people of Israel were deeply pleased and inspired by Eleanor Roosevelt's friendship. Those in attendance included other members of the U. S. Supreme Court, the Cabinet, and members of Congress.

JOSEPH AND SAMUEL DAROFF HONORED IN PHILADELPHIA ON 65th BIRTHDAY

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 14: (JTA) -- More than \$500,000 in Israel bonds were raised at a dinner here sponsored by the Israel Bond Organization and honoring Joseph and Samuel Daroff, prominent Jewish leaders, on the occasion of their 65th birthday. The guests of honor were presented with paintings by the well-known Israeli artist Motke Blum of Jerusalem. Yissachar Ben-Yaacov, Israel's Consul in Philadelphia, brought greetings from Israel President Zalman Shazar.

JEWISH COMMUNITY IN MOROCCO OPENS SCHOOL; AIDED BY GOVERNMENT

PARIS, Dec. 14: (JTA) -- A new Jewish school has been built in Agadir by the Agadir Jewish community and the American Friends of the Alliance Universelle, with funds from the Moroccan Government, to replace the one destroyed in the earthquake that shattered the Moroccan city in 1960.

The building includes two well-equipped classrooms for 70 pupils, plus a nursery for 24 infants and a fine synagogue.