



DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXXIV - 50th year

Wednesday, January 25, 1967

No. 17

KNESSET DEBATES ISRAEL'S POLICY ON SYRIA; PARTIES DIFFER ON STAND

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Military action against Syria now or later was the topic of a debate in the Knesset (Parliament) here today, when the national legislature discussed the official statement made before the house last week by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol. He had called the Syrian border situation grave enough to indicate urgent preparedness, but warned that "if aggression continues, we shall react."

The major partners in the Government coalition lauded the Government for its patience in the face of Syrian provocations and its determination to exhaust all political and diplomatic means in its attempts to restore tranquility on Israel's northern borders. The differences voiced by those parties in the debate were only in nuances.

Speakers for the Mapai-Achdut Avodah alignment emphasized that there must be an end to patience and that the end was near. The left-wing Mapam members held that patience must be maintained "indefinitely," and warned that the time has not yet been reached for an Israeli reaction "by force."

Members representing Cahal -- the fusion of Herut and the Liberal Party -- and those belonging to Rafi, the Israel Workers Party formed by former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, disagreed. They charged the Government with "writing too many letters" to the United Nations Security Council. They insisted that military action constituted the only means of reaction against Syria and for bringing about border tranquility in the face of the Damascus Government's definite and avowed policy of anti-Israeli aggression.

The opposition insisted that delay in moving to reprisal against Syria is "dangerous" because other Arab states might not be able to restrain the war-hungry elements in their countries if the Syrians go unpunished by Israel. The debate is to be continued next week, when the Premier is expected to report to Parliament on the outcome of the extraordinary session of the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, which is to open its sessions tomorrow.

Eban Sees Long Period of 'No Peace, No War' Facing Israel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban expressed hope here today that the special meeting to be opened tomorrow by the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission might lead to the settlement of the problems besetting Israeli-Syrian relations. He said such an aim could result if the extraordinary session of the ISMAC discussed not only practical problems of farm-land cultivation in the disputed zones between Israel and Syria, but also paid attention to a clause in the 1949 Israel-Syria armistice agreement which calls upon the governments to prevent border crossings for hostile activity in the neighboring land.

Speaking before a luncheon meeting of the Foreign Press Association, Mr. Eban said that, while Israel would adhere to agreements that might be reached by ISMAC regarding cultivation and the rights of cultivation, it will not tolerate "in the long run" incidents like the recent occurrence in the Galilean village of Dishon. There, during a football game, a mine attributed to saboteurs infiltrating from Syria, blew up, killing one spectator and wounding two of the players.

While Israel, said Mr. Eban, "is facing a long period of no peace, no war," he voiced the hope that the spirit of Tashkent, which brought about a rapprochement in the India-Pakistan struggle over Kashmir, would be applicable to the Middle East as an aid toward settling disputes through direct negotiations. He declared that there still exists in the Arab world a trend toward accepting the existence of Israel as an accomplished fact, after 18 years of Israeli statehood. That trend, he declared, points toward possible Arab-Israeli coexistence or "reluctant reconciliation with an undesirable fact."

U.N. TRUCE CHIEF ANNOUNCES AGENDA FOR TODAY'S ISRAEL-SYRIA MEETING

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of staff of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization, announced in a letter to Israel and Syria, issued here today, the agenda for the extraordinary meeting of the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, opening tomorrow on the border between the two countries.

Gen. Bull stated the meeting would consider "practical arrangements on problems of cultivation on the armistice demarcation line in order to secure a peaceful atmosphere on the line for farmers and civilians in the area." Meanwhile, he requested both governments to continue observing the "unconditional cease-fire."

BANK OF ISRAEL TAKES OVER TWO PRIVATE BANKS; PROTECTS DEPOSITORS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- The Bank of Israel announced last night that it had taken over the management of two old, privately-owned Israeli financial institutions, Bank Feuchtwanger and Bank Ellern, both of which have been under a single management since Feuchtwanger took over Ellern recently. The Bank of Israel, a state institution, announced it had taken over all the obligations of the two smaller banks, domestic and foreign.

The two banks, founded in the 30's during the beginning of the influx of German Jewish immigration into Israel, have total assets of 200,000,000 Israeli pounds (\$66,660,000), of which 130,000,000 pounds (over \$43,000,000) is in foreign currency. All of the foreign currency held by the two banks is on deposit in the Bank of Israel, thus being fully guaranteed. The banks conduct 5.1 percent of Israel's banking.

A spokesman for the Bank of Israel stated that a routine check of the conduct of the two banks had disclosed that "some of the shareholders of Bank Feuchtwanger received exaggerated credit, either in cash or through bank guarantees, thus endangering the financial position of both banks."

For that reason, the state bank stated, a new management has been appointed for both banks and the spokesman said that the Bank of Israel is backing "all liabilities, thus no one will suffer." It was also announced that the single board of directors for both institutions had resigned.

The announcement was made at 10 o'clock last night, so as to minimize chances for financial panic and of a run on the two banks. Their major offices are in Tel Aviv, but the institutions have branches throughout Israel.

During the night and early morning hours, armored cars rushed huge sums of cash to all banks throughout Israel to meet any possibilities of mass withdrawals. However there was no panic, even at the two banks affected. The Tel Aviv offices of both banks opened on time this morning. While the number of withdrawals was said to be larger than usual, it was noted also that many people were depositing money in both institutions.

The bank's board of directors resigned voluntarily. However, Israel's Commissioner of Banks reported the entire development to the Attorney General who has said he will probe into the operations of the banks "to see whether there are grounds for an investigation into their activities." Financial circles, led by David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank of Israel, emphasized today that both banks are now as safe regarding deposits and liabilities as any bank in Israel.

ISRAELIS STRESS ADVANTAGES TO EUROPE BY ADMITTING ISRAEL TO EUROMART

BRUSSELS, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Ambassador Amiel Najar, Israel's envoy to the European Economic Community, who is heading Israel's delegation to a meeting of the Euromart Commission currently considering Israel's application for associate membership in the EEC, told the Commission's closing meeting on the issue today that admission of Israel to EEC associate membership would benefit not only Israel but all of Europe.

Summarizing two days of testimony by himself and other leading Israeli experts, Mr. Najar declared: "Israel is offering the EEC a fair deal through which the advantages to Europe would be far from negligible. By providing Israel with the assured markets which it needs so badly, Europe will be able to increase its exports to Israel in all fields -- industrial, agricultural and in the field of capital goods."

David Golán, director-general of Israel's Ministry of Commerce and Industry, similarly declared that "Israel's association with the EEC will be beneficial to the EEC as well as to Israel." Under EEC associate membership, he declared, Israel will be able to double its imports from the six states that are members of the Euromart -- France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. Imports from those countries, he said, would rise by 100 percent from the 1966 total of \$200,000,000.

Ariel Amiad, director-general of Israel's Ministry of Agriculture, addressing the Commission this morning, said that Israel's agriculture is complementary to Europe's, and not competitive. "Europe," he stated, "is not only the main market for our agricultural products, but our sole market in that field."

Robert Toulemon, director of the EEC's association and adhesion section, heading the Euromart's delegation to the Commission's meeting, assured the Israelis openly that the Commission "desires a sincere dialogue" on Israel's associate membership bid. "The participation of the Community," he stated, "will be as positive as possible."

PRESIDENT OF TUNISIA REITERATES CALL FOR ARAB PEACE TALKS WITH ISRAEL

BONN, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia reiterated here his conviction that the Arab countries should enter into peace talks with Israel. The Tunisian leader, who rocked the Arab world a couple of years ago by taking that stand, made the point again in an interview with Die Welt, leading German newspaper. He said also that war should not be considered a means of solving the "Palestine problem."

NAZI GENERAL ON TRIAL FOR DEPORTING DUTCH JEWS TESTIFIES IN COURT

MUNICH, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Former SS General Wilhelm Harster, on trial here since yesterday -- with two other Nazis -- of responsibility for the murder of thousands of Dutch Jews by deporting them to death camps, admitted at the trial today that a court in the Netherlands had convicted him of "abuse of duty." He said the Administration of the West German State of Bavaria nevertheless gave him a civil service post with "full knowledge" of his Dutch record.

While Harster and his two co-defendants were testifying today, members of the Association of Victims of Nazi Persecutions continued to picket outside the court house. The picketing was begun yesterday, when the trial opened. The demonstrators carried placards showing the portrait of Anne Frank, the young girl whose diary had become famous throughout the world, and distributed leaflets accusing Harster of having been "the most successful and most cruel of the murderers of Dutch Jews." Miss Frank was one of the victims of the Dutch-Jewish deportations. She died at Bergen-Belsen.

The two other defendants also testified today and admitted to having been members of the Nazi Party since 1933, the year Hitler came to power. They are Gertrud Slotke, 64, who acted as Harster's secretary as well as chief of the women's division of the department he headed in Holland, dealing with the Jews; and former SS Major Wilhelm Soepf, 58, who had been Harster's principal aide.

Only 1,070 of the Deported Jews Survived; 93,328 Perished

In the court proceedings, all three defendants are charged in 23 indictments of knowingly sending to the Nazi death camps, mainly at Auschwitz and Sobibor, 94,398 Dutch Jews, of whom only 1,070 had survived.

Arrested in Holland after the war, Harster was convicted by a Dutch court and sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment. After serving six years, he was freed. He returned to Germany, where a denazification court declared him "mildly incriminated." In 1956, the Bavarian civil service appointed him to a school department post in Upper Bavaria, specializing in community finances. He retired three years ago "on grounds of illness," and has been living on a civil service pension.

Appearing in the court room in full SS officer's uniform, Harster told the court today that Bavaria had known all about his record, including his conviction by a Dutch court. The chief prosecutor told the court that, during pre-trial examination, he had conceded that, when he ordered the Dutch Jews deported to the concentration camps of Auschwitz and Sobibor, he knew that "as a whole, the Jews were going to their deaths."

Harster told the court he had studied law, as a youth, at Erlangen University, joined the Nazi Party in 1933, serving in the police division and advancing rapidly to a high post in the security division which he headed in occupied Holland. He is 62.

In her testimony today, Miss Slotke said she knew when she worked under Harster in Holland that his office "was concerned with the Jews." Zoepf claimed in testifying that he had tried unsuccessfully, after being sent to Holland to aid Harster, to get a transfer because "what was being done to the Jews was a dreadful crime."

Among the witnesses scheduled to appear at the trial for the prosecution is Otto Frank, father of the late Anne Frank.

3,000 PICKET CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION OVER NEO-NAZI INTERVIEW

TORONTO, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Three thousand persons picketed the studios of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation today when a taped interview with Adolf von Thadden, West German National Democratic Party deputy leader, was broadcast over the network.

Although the demonstrators greeted with stony silence attempts by CBC staff to interview them, the police commended the picketers for their orderliness.

In the half-hour von Thadden interview which was taped in the latter's Hanover home, the NDP leader denied that he was a Nazi and said there was no Jewish problem in Germany because of their small numbers. He admitted that he saw anti-Jewish atrocities under Hitler but said they were committed by Rumanians and that the Germans were not the inventors of anti-Semitism.

Commenting on the small children in the von Thadden home, the CBC interviewer said that a man loving children "cannot be all bad." Before the interview started, Toronto Rabbi Gunther Plaut cited statements by von Thadden's lieutenants incriminating the NDP leader.

LAST COPY OF ANTI-JEWISH FILM 'JEW SUESS' CONFISCATED IN GERMANY

KARLSRUHE, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- The last existing copy of Josef Goebbels' anti-Jewish propaganda film, "Jew Suess," was confiscated by the Political Court here, after it was condemned as "anti-constitutional and dangerous to public opinion." Two Germans, Dieter Fegar, 38, and Helmut Schrag, 37, were fined and given prison sentences for their role in trying to sell the film.

SEVERAL HUNDRED U.S. INVESTORS FROM 20 STATES LEAVE FOR ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Several hundred investors in Ampal-American Israel Corporation or its sister company, Israel Development Corporation, are departing tomorrow by plane to Israel to view their stake in the economy there. They come from about 20 states.

The trip is commemorating the 25th anniversary of Ampal, which has thousands of shareholders in this country. Ampal was organized by Abraham Dickenstein, president of the corporation, in 1942, with total cash on hand of \$1,500. Today it has assets of over \$55,000,000 with loans and investments in over 70 companies. Neither Ampal nor IDC has failed to pay a cash dividend since formation.

The trip will include visits to Jerusalem, Haifa, the ports of Eilat and Ashdod, and other areas where industry and commerce are developing. High points of the visit will include a reception in Jerusalem held by Israel's President, S. Z. Shazar, a gala 25th anniversary banquet in Tel Aviv, and a luncheon tendered and addressed by Israel's Prime Minister, Levi Eshkol, in Jerusalem.

The two-week trip is being arranged by the Histadrut Foundation for Educational Travel using El Al Israel Airlines. Investors making the trip are from Arizona, California, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Washington, D.C., and Wisconsin.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS TO BE HELD IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Scientists from 20 countries, including 10 from the Soviet Union and 44 from the United States, are expected to attend the International Congress of Nuclear Physics to be held next month at Rehovoth, it was announced here today.

More than 200 scientists are expected. The congress will be the largest and most important scientific meeting ever held in Israel. It will be conducted under the auspices of the Weizmann Institute of Science and CERN -- the European Center for Nuclear Research, which maintains its headquarters in Geneva.

The American delegation, largest ever sent here for this purpose from the U.S.A., will represent leading American research centers and universities. The Soviet delegation is to be headed by Professor Kaldish, president of the USSR Academy of Science. Countries to be represented at the congress will include also France and Britain.

JOINT ISRAELI-NORWEGIAN SHIP FIRM SET; ASSETS TOTAL \$20,000,000

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Establishment of a joint Israeli-Norwegian shipping company, understood to be capitalized at \$20,000,000., was reported here today. An eight-man Norwegian delegation of merchant marine executives is expected to arrive here next week for finalization of the plans and the formal signing of contracts.

Under the reported plans, the new firm will operate two refrigerated vessels as a start, each of a 10,000 tons, and will add other ships later, at least two more ships being blueprinted.

PROF. PERELMAN, BRUSSELS JEWISH SCHOLAR, DECORATED BY KING OF BELGIUM

BRUSSELS, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Prof. Chaim Perelman, a leading member of the Brussels Jewish community, has been designated by King Badouin a Commander of the Order De La Couronne, one of the highest Belgian awards. A professor of philosophy at Brussels University, he is returning from a visit to the United States and Canada where he taught and lectured at McGill University in Montreal, and the University of Chicago.

ROBERT HENRIQUES, BRITISH JEWISH AUTHOR, COMMUNAL LEADER, DEAD AT 61

LONDON, Jan. 24. (JTA) -- Robert Henriques, a prominent author, broadcasting personality and active leader in Jewish and Zionist affairs, died here today at the age of 61. He wrote the best-selling account of the Sinai campaign, "100 Hours To Suez."

Born in London, the scion of an Anglo-Jewish family in England since 1656, he was a senior British Army officer in World War II, and achieved fame in England as a broadcasting personality. Although he was an anti-Zionist in his early life, he became an ardent supporter of the Jewish State during the war and, in recent years, built a home in Galilee, where he spent several months each year.

He was president of The Bridge, a British organization sponsoring study and work trips to Israel for students, and had served as vice-president of the Association of Synagogues in Great Britain, the Association for Jewish Youth and the World Federation of YMFA's. He was also active in the Anglo-Jewish Association. He was the author of many successful novels and other books, some of which earned major literary awards.