



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXXIV - 50th year

Monday, March 6, 1967

No. 44

FRENCH JEWS WOOED BY DE GAULLE PARTY IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS

PARIS, March 5. (JTA) -- French Jews were assiduously wooed by candidates of the party of President de Gaulle for the general elections for a new French Assembly which were held today. Constituents in which no candidate obtained a majority today will go to the polls a week later.

French Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville told an assembly attended by a large number of Jews that France would do all it could to bring about reunification of Jewish families which have members in the Soviet Union. He also said he hoped that the existing pact between the European Common Market and Israel, which expires next June 30, would be changed into a better agreement for Israel.

A committee of coordination for Jewish deportees, a French Jewish organization representing thousands of such survivors of Nazism, addressed a special appeal to all French Jews to vote for the candidates of the de Gaulle list. The committee also sent thousands of letters to Jewish voters, urging them to vote for Foreign Minister de Murville, Roger Frey, Louis Joxe and other de Gaulle Ministers.

The letters stressed that Jews should not forget what Gen. de Gaulle had done against the Nazis during World War II and what his Government was doing now to bar renewal of Fascist parties in France. The committee also made a point of reminding French Jews that Gen. de Gaulle had once described Israel as "a friend and ally of France."

The meeting at which the Foreign Minister spoke was one of a number of such gatherings organized in recent days by the committee and other Jewish organizations. Many of these meetings are being held in Jewish homes.

Another highlight of the campaign was the bid by Former Premier Pierre Mendes-France for a seat in Parliament after eight years in the political backwaters. The Jewish ex-Premier is running on the ticket of the small leftist Unified Socialist Party in Grenoble. His opponents include a Gaullist, a Communist and an extreme rightwinger.

The Jewish ex-Premier does not expect to get elected in the first round of voting today when an absolute majority is needed for victory. But, under an alliance with the Communists, the Communist candidate will step down if Mendes-France gets more votes than he does. This would give the former Premier a united leftwing vote in the runoff ballot on March 12 when a relative majority is enough for victory. Mendes-France lost his seat in Parliament in 1958 and lost again in the 1962 elections.

ARAB INFILTRATORS ACTIVE ON ISRAELI BORDERS; ISRAELI WOUNDED

TEL AVIV, March 5. (JTA) -- Arab infiltrators and saboteurs stepped up their activities on three of Israel's borders this weekend -- near Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

The most serious of the incidents took place about 630 yards from the Syrian border, when a tractor being driven toward Kibbutz Shamir hit a mine, seriously wounding the Israeli driver. The site of the blast was near the Syrian gun post of Darbashiya.

On the Jordanian border, infiltrators surprised a night watchman, robbed him of his watch and money, and started to abduct him. However, the watchman was released when the infiltrators reached the border and escaped into Jordan.

On the Lebanese frontier, Lebanese soldiers drove off a flock of 100 sheep, taking the sheep across the Lebanese border. The sheep belong to Kibbutz Margaliyot. Today, Lebanese authorities notified Israel, through the U.N. Mixed Armistice Commission, that the sheep will be returned.

Meanwhile, a serious wreck was narrowly averted this weekend when the engineer of the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem train discovered heavy logs had been placed on the tracks at a point about nine miles from the Jordanian border. The barricade could have derailed the train, but the engineer found it possible to halt the locomotive in time. Seven young Arabs who were part of a Bedouin encampment nearby were arrested by Israeli authorities on suspicion of having placed the logs across the railroad tracks.

BRAZILIAN POLICE INTERROGATE STANGL ON OTHER NAZIS HIDING IN BRAZIL

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 5. (JTA) -- Franz Stangl, the long-sought Nazi who is charged with the responsibility of killing 700,000 Jews in the Nazi death camps of Treblinka and Sobibor, of which he was the commandant, and who was arrested in Sao Paulo last week at the request of the Austrian Embassy, is being held under maximum security detention in Brasilia, the Federal Security Police revealed today.

The Brazilian Federal Police is especially interested in finding out if he knows about other former Nazi war criminals possibly hiding in Brazil. Stangl had lived quietly with his wife and two daughters in Brazil, under an assumed name, since 1951. He worked as an automobile mechanic in a Volkswagen plant in Sao Paulo.

The Austrian Government started proceedings this weekend for the extradition of Stangl, who was traced by Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna. Stangl, who fled from an Austrian prisoner-of-war camp in 1946, is on a list of missing war criminals issued by the Austrian Government in 1962. Evaristo de Moraes Filho, a Brazilian lawyer retained by Treblinka survivors now living in Israel, will assist Austria in the extradition proceedings.

The extradition request must be considered by the Brazilian Supreme Court within 60 days. Under Brazilian law, a prisoner can be kept under custody for that period. Officials indicated there were no legal barriers to extraditing Stangl. Brazil does not have capital punishment. Its laws stipulate that a prisoner cannot be extradited unless the requesting nation agrees it will not apply the death penalty to the prisoner. Austria also has no death penalty.

The Brazilian file on Stangl indicated he had been born in Austria on March 26, 1908, and that he had been an Austrian police officer when the Hitler regime took control of Austria. He joined the Gestapo and rose from informer to captain in charge of construction of concentration camps. He supervised the building of the camps at Treblinka and Sobibor and later commanded both camps.

Stangl's arrest was announced last week by Abreu Sode, Governor of Sao Paulo State, who said: "The genocide, Franz Paul Stangl, who made martyrs of the Austrian people and is responsible for the death of 700,000 Jews, has been detained by the Department of Political and Social Order and transferred to federal authorities for the process of extradition." He said Stangl ranked only behind Martin Bormann, Hitler's deputy, and Lt. Gen. Heinrich Muller, head of the SS, on the list of "most wanted" Nazi criminals.

Stangl Was Traced to Brazil on Tip-Off by Ex-Gestapo Man

AMSTERDAM, March 5. (JTA) -- The background of the events that have led to the arrest in Brazil of Franz Stangl, former commandant of the Nazi murder camps of Treblinka and Sobibor, was revealed here this weekend by Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish Documentation Center at Vienna.

Mr. Wiesenthal, whose office had been credited with tracking down the late Adolf Eichmann, leading to the latter's apprehension in Argentina and his subsequent sentencing to death and execution in Israel, said he first was offered Stangl's address in 1964 by a former member of the Nazi secret police. The informant, whose name was not revealed by Mr. Wiesenthal, first asked \$25,000 for providing Stangl's address.

Later, according to Mr. Wiesenthal, the informant reduced his price to "2 cents for every man, woman and child killed" under Stangl's responsibility. After further bargaining, the informant agreed to reveal the address at a price of 1 cent per victim. Since Stangl had been responsible for an estimated 700,000 deaths, he was promised a payment of \$7,000 upon Stangl's arrest.

After lengthy negotiations with high-ranking Brazilians, Mr. Wiesenthal said, he was told last December that Stangl would be arrested on the order of the newly-elected Governor of Sao Paulo Province, in Brazil, Roberto Abreu Sodre, as soon as the Argentine Embassy in Brazil would request the man's extradition. With the cooperation of the Austrian Minister of Justice, a 50-page summary of a 1,000-page Austrian accusation against Stangl was prepared and sent to Brazil by secret couriers. Stangl's arrest last week was the result.

Only three Jews -- living now in Israel -- survived from among all the Jews sent to Treblinka and Sobibor under Stangl's command, Mr. Wiesenthal said. All three are prepared to testify when Stangl comes to trial, he added. The cost of the entire Stangl operation, conducted by Mr. Wiesenthal's Documentation Center, was said here to have been \$45,000. Mr. Wiesenthal's "wanted" list of Nazi war criminals still includes 22,000 names. Mr. Wiesenthal revealed that there is in existence now an organization of former Nazi war criminals whose aim is to protect wanted war criminals. He said the group is known as "Odessa" -- which stands for Organization der SS Angehorige, referring to those who had been members of Hitler's SS.

\$30, 150, 000 IN ISRAEL BONDS SOLD AT DINNER HONORING BEN-GURION

MIAMI BEACH, March 5. (JTA) -- More than 3,000 Jewish leaders from all parts of the United States and Canada gathered here at the International Inaugural Conference of Israel Bonds, celebrated last night the 80th birthday of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's eldest statesman, by purchasing \$30, 150, 000 in Israel bonds. This was the largest amount ever realized by any inaugural conference in the 16-year history of the Israel Bond Organization.

The 300 tables in the big ballroom at the Fontainebleu Hotel each had a birthday cake decorated with blue and white flags of Israel in homage to the Israeli leader. The overflow audience was deeply moved as Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization, described Mr. Ben-Gurion as "the man who erased the word homelessness, from the vocabulary of Jewish experience."

Mr. Ben-Gurion called on American Jews to preserve their Jewishness through wider study of the Bible and to advance Israel's economic growth through increased investment in Israel bonds for the extension of its industry and export trade.

With characteristic intensity, Mr. Ben-Gurion stressed the importance of the settlement and development of the Negev, the southern desert which makes up 60 percent of Israel. "The Negev must not remain a desert," he told the audience. "Israel will not achieve its fullest potential of economic growth unless the Negev is made a center of new industry, he said.

Ben-Gurion Stresses Advantage of Developing the Negev

"We have one big advantage over America and Europe in developing our trade with Asian and African countries," he declared. "We are closer to them. Therefore, if we build new industrial plants in the Negev, we will be in a position to increase our exports to these countries (through the Red Sea port of Eilat) because it will take them years to bring a development of their economies up to our level. In turning the Negev into a source of new industrial exports, we will hasten the attainment of our goals of economic independence."

Pointing out that "there were 5, 000, 000 or 6, 000, 000 Jews during the time of the Roman Empire," Mr. Ben-Gurion said: "If it had not been for wholesale persecution and murder and assimilation, there would have been more than 100, 000, 000 Jews in the world today, instead of 13, 000, 000." He added that "if you do not teach your children the Bible, I doubt whether Judaism or the Jewish people will survive. It is the Bible that has kept us alive all these centuries and it is the Bible that holds the greatest hope for our survival in the future."

In his address of tribute to Mr. Ben-Gurion, Dr. Schwartz drew a parallel between the former Prime Minister's life and the entire history of the Jews during the past 80 years. He stressed the importance of the ties between Jews in America and Israel, and the important role which American Jews have played in aiding the country's development. "This is the mission of Israel Bonds," he said, "the mission of the continuing, the uninterrupted, the undiminished partnership of achievement that will live forever in history and that will be a rich legacy for countless generations of Jews."

Samuel Rothberg, national campaign chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, said: "The Israel Bond Organization, which Mr. Ben-Gurion created and which has become the most important single instrument in the economic development of Israel, has at its core the responsibility of the free world to place on a firm and lasting foundation the homeland which the surviving victims of Hitlerism and other refugees have built in Israel."

Ben-Gurion Arrives in Philadelphia; Welcomed by Mayor Upon Landing

PHILADELPHIA, March 5. (JTA) -- David Ben-Gurion was welcomed to Philadelphia at International Airport by communal and civic leaders as more than a thousand flag-waving Jewish religious school children sang "Havenu Shalom Aleichem."

Arriving from Miami on the first stop of his tour of five American cities under the auspices of the United Jewish Appeal, the 80-year-old Israeli leader and his wife were greeted by Philadelphia's Mayor James H.J. Tate, Frank L. Newburger, Jr., president of the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia; Raymond G. Perelman, general chairman of the Federation's 1967 Allied Jewish Appeal; Yissakhar Ben-Yaacov, Israel consul-general at Philadelphia; other officials and members of Philadelphia's city council.

Mr. Ben-Gurion briefly acknowledged the greetings and departed for the Warwick Hotel in an official city motorcade. In the evening he participated in a meeting at Gratz College attended by faculty and students of both Gratz College and Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning. The entire meeting, including an address by Mr. Ben-Gurion, was conducted in Hebrew.

U.S. ORTHODOX RABBIS PLAN TO BUILD \$25,000,000 INSTITUTE IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 5. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Council of America, an organization of Orthodox rabbis, announced plans for the development of a \$25,000,000 institute in Jerusalem for the advancement of Judaic studies.

Under the plan, the Council stated, it will build the new institute near Mount Herzl, providing facilities for the study of Jewish subjects as well as residential quarters for about 100 students. All of the students, the Council said, would be American rabbis ordained by Orthodox rabbinical seminaries in this country. The students would continue their studies at the Institute for a year before joining the active rabbinate in this country.

REFORM RABBIS BACK ORTHODOX SOLDIER ON REFUSAL TO SERVE IN ARMY

WASHINGTON, March 5. (JTA) -- Rabbi Jacob Weinstein, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, said today that he has started action to support the rights of Pvt. Robert Levy, an Orthodox Jewish soldier confined by the Army in a mental ward because he sought to conscientiously object to military service in Viet Nam on a basis of Jewish convictions.

Army authorities said that U.S. Army chaplain Martin Feinsod, an Orthodox rabbi, agreed with the decision to commit Levy. They said the chaplain was the only clergyman granted visiting privileges and was seeking to bring Levy's religious thinking into conformity with Army requirements. Rabbi Weinstein challenged "the self-assumed right of an Orthodox chaplain to arbitrarily rule out conscientious objection by a soldier of Jewish faith." He indicated that steps were being taken to have a rabbi other than Chaplain Feinsod visit Madigan General Hospital, Tacoma, Wash., to give Levy religious counsel in response to Levy's request.

Reliable sources in Seattle have revealed that Levy sought to pray and fast in a Seattle synagogue but was ejected on grounds that his presence might embarrass the congregation. He was locked up in the Army psychiatric facility, an Army spokesman said, after Chaplain Feinsod told authorities he did not consider Levy's conscientious objection and fasting to be acceptable behavior in the Orthodox interpretation.

Pvt. Levy's attorney, William Hanson, meanwhile revealed that Dr. Arthur Kobler, a Seattle psychologist in private practice, examined Levy immediately prior to the Army's action against him. After a thorough examination, Dr. Kobler concluded that Levy was "a thoroughly reasonable, serious, thoughtful young man possessed of sincere and deep religious convictions." There was no evidence of psychosis.

MICHIGAN POLICE HUNTING FOR ARSONIST WHO SET FIRE TO SYNAGOGUE

TRENTON, Mich., March 5. (JTA) -- Police authorities of this quiet residential town southwest of Detroit were still hunting today for an arsonist who had set fire last Wednesday night to Beth Israel Synagogue, causing damage estimated at tens of thousands of dollars.

The fire was discovered in the evening, several hours after the building had been vacated by the last class of Jewish children attending the synagogue's religious school. There was no one in the building when the fire started. On a blackboard in one of the basement classrooms, firemen found scrawled in yellow paint a swastika and the word "Juden."

Police Inspector Paul Dechene said the fire was "definitely" the work of an arsonist, a sick person." Meanwhile, the congregation used yesterday the facilities of Faith Methodist Church, where it had conducted its services until it erected its own synagogue three years ago.

MALAMUD WINS NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR NOVEL BASED ON BEILIS CASE

NEW YORK, March 5. (JTA) -- Bernard Malamud, the American-Jewish author, was announced today the winner of the National Book Award in fiction for his latest novel, "The Fixer," a story based on the notorious Mendel Beilis ritual murder case of 1911 in Czarist Russia. The award, carrying with it a prize of \$1,000, will be the second for Mr. Malamud. He received the National Book Award in 1950 for his collection of short stories, "The Magic Barrel."

The award is given annually by a committee representing booksellers, publishers and manufacturers. A coveted prize, it ranks in this country on a level with the annual Pulitzer Prize. In the Beilis case, a Jewish brick-kiln worker in Kiev was falsely accused of murdering a Christian boy "for ritual purposes." After a prolonged trial which attracted worldwide attention, Beilis was freed. He came subsequently to the United States, and died at Saratoga Springs in 1941.