



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXXIV -- Fiftieth Year

Thursday, August 3, 1967

No. 149

Arab Non-Cooperation Mood in Jerusalem Fades; Defense Ministry Takes Over

JERUSALEM, August 2. (JTA) -- Moslem dignitaries in the occupied West Bank section of Jordan were informed today by Israeli authorities that Moslem affairs in the area will be dealt with hereafter by the Defense Ministry instead of by the Religious Affairs Ministry. The move was designed to stem Arab unrest in the area which led to the banishment Monday of four Arab notables to Jewish cities in northern Israel.

The information was conveyed to the Moslem officials after a Cabinet meeting which considered the problem. The dignitaries had complained of "unwarranted interference" by the Religious Ministry in their internal affairs. The mood of "non-cooperation" by Arab residents appeared today to have faded. Complete calm, with a business-as-usual atmosphere, reportedly prevailed in all Israeli-held Arab territories.

More houses near the Western Wall in the old sector of Jerusalem will be demolished soon to increase the length of the Jewish shrine area from 30 to more than 100 yards, officials reported today. Owners of the houses will be compensated in accordance with Israel law.

An agriculture Ministry official said today that Israel had no objection to a request by citrus growers in the Gaza Strip for permission to continue to export their crops to their traditional customers in the eastern bloc countries.

Ahiel Amiad, the Ministry director general, added that last season, the Gaza Strip produced 2,000,000 cases for export and that, if the owners were unable to sell their crops, Israel would have to deal with that surplus as it now does with ~~citrus surpluses~~ in the occupied West Bank of Jordan. Expressing pessimism about the prospects of such sales, Amiad said the problem was qualitative and not quantitative. He said that Gaza citrus trees were not treated and maintained in the manner applied to Israeli trees.

Congress Hears Plea for Allowing Israel to Acquire U.S. Military Aircraft Replacements

WASHINGTON, August 2. (JTA) -- Charging that the United States Government has refused to deliver military aircraft to Israel, Chairman Robert L.F. Sikes of the Military Construction Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee told Congress today that "obviously, the Arabs know of this country's refusal to help Israel and this encourages Arab belligerency."

Rep. Sikes, a Florida Democrat, said that "refusal on our part to help Israel is most untimely and it could produce highly undesirable results. Israel should be allowed to acquire needed replacements of aircraft and spares from available U.S. stocks in areas other than those required for Viet Nam." He said that the U.S. official position "is resulting in a very serious problem for the only friend we have left in the Mideast."

The Congressman held that "in part as a result of efforts to put a brake on the sale of American military equipment abroad, Israel again is being confronted with a threatening situation from Arab nations." He pointed out that "Israel's losses in aircraft were moderate, but there have been no replacements for these losses. More serious is their inability to get spares -- engines and parts -- with which to maintain firstline efficiency on the aircraft remaining in the Israel inventory."

Rep. Sikes stressed that "France is now refusing to help Israel with supplies. The failure of the United States to do so leaves Israel with no reliable source of aircraft and spares." He noted "by contrast, the Arab forces, whose equipment was heavily depleted by the effectiveness of the Israeli strategy, are being resupplied rapidly by the Russians." Rep. Sikes recalled that "control of the air was a vital part in the smashing success enjoyed by Israeli forces" and continues to be vital.

Admiral Thomas H. Moore, the new Chief of Naval Operations, said today that during the Arab-Israeli war, the Soviet Union doubled its naval strength in the Mediterranean, bringing it to more than 20 ships -- about half the size of the U.S. Sixth Fleet. He said that the Russians were now unusually active in the Mediterranean and that such activity was increasing. The admiral saw the shift in that respect by Russia to a new sea posture, from defense to offense, as one of the major problems facing the U.S. Navy.

Moscow Avoids Showdown in Geneva on Demand for Israel Reparations to Arabs

GENEVA, August 2. (JTA) -- The Soviet Union, fearing a diplomatic defeat, today backed away from a showdown vote over a demand that Israel pay reparations to the Arabs for damages done in the recent conflict.

The Russians had demanded at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) meeting here that a Soviet resolution be approved to require an assessment of damages caused by Israel and payment of the bill. The United States offered a motion calling the Russian resolution out of order. After a daylong debate it emerged that Russia lacked adequate votes. The Soviet delegate then announced he would not insist on a vote.

U.N. Commissioner on Aid to Arab Refugees Agrees to Consult Israel on His Report

JERUSALEM, August 2. (JTA) -- An agreement was reached today by Israel with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency which is expected to bring an end to a practice of annual UNRWA reports to the General Assembly containing the anti-Israel views of Arab host countries for the Arab refugees.

The agreement, worked out by UNRWA Commissioner-General Laurence Michelmore and the Israeli Foreign Ministry, provides that he will prepare his annual report this year after consultation with Israeli officials. The need for such an agreement stemmed from the fact that about 500,000 Arab refugees now live in Israeli-occupied Arab territories. It was understood that the report can no longer be prepared on the basis of consultations with hostile Arab countries only.

U.S. Committee to Raise Funds for Refugees in Middle East Formed in New York

NEW YORK, August 2. (JTA) -- The formation of the Near East Emergency Donation (NEED) Committee to raise large amounts of money for urgent humanitarian efforts for refugees in the Middle East, was announced today by James A. Linen, president of Time Inc. who is serving as chairman of the board of the newly-formed organization here.

NEED consists of 37 prominent U.S. citizens in the fields of government, business, education, and journalism and is under the honorary chairmanship of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Among the members of the board of directors are several prominent Jewish leaders, including Philip M. Klutznick, former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Robert S. Benjamin of United Artists Corp., Edgar Bronfman of Seagram & Sons, Admiral Lewis L. Strauss, John L. Loeb of Loeb, Rhodes & Co., and Andre Meyer of Lazard Freres & Co.

Mr. Linen said the committee will disband after two or three months after collecting large sums of money which it hopes to get from individuals, foundations and other sources. This money will be turned over to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to aid the new refugees. NEED has been granted tax exempt status by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

"In the aftermath of the Middle Eastern war, one urgent humanitarian demand is non-political and beyond international dispute: the need for emergency aid to war refugees," said Mr. Linen. In a message to the newly-formed organization, Gen. Eisenhower called for "an immediate and massive drive to create a new private fund to aid the refugees who deserve support from all."

Israel Refutes Egypt's Charges of Failing to Protect Cultural Property

UNITED NATIONS, August 2. (JTA) -- Israel today refuted allegations of Egypt that it does not comply with the international convention for the protection of cultural property under conditions of armed conflict. Shabtai Rosenne, Israel's Acting Permanent Representative, informed Secretary-General U Thant in a letter today that the Egyptian charges were "unfounded and misleading."

Mr. Rosenne recalled that on June 5, when the director-general of UNESCO called upon the belligerents in the Arab-Israel war to observe the Hague Convention, he was assured by Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban that the convention would be fully adhered to and respected by Israel.

In fact, wrote Mr. Rosenne, the UNESCO director-general had been invited to send a representative to visit the historic and cultural sites in the war zones to determine for himself the measure of protection afforded by Israeli authorities. Legal experts, he added, spent the period from July 16 to 18 in Israel discussing various aspects of the convention. Israel, Mr. Rosenne said, was now awaiting the UNESCO director-general's views following these discussions.

Next World Zionist Congress to be Held in Jerusalem in February

JERUSALEM, August 2. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency executive announced today that the 27th World Zionist Congress will open here on February 19, 1968. The decision was announced after Agency consultations with the Zionist parties. The decision is to be presented to the presidium of the World Zionist Actions Committee for approval.

Lebanon Protects Jewish Quarter in Beirut; Armored Cars Guard Streets

LONDON, August 2, (JTA) -- The Times reported today from Beirut that armored cars were still posted on the street corners of the Jewish quarter where Jews have been largely unaffected during the June war and the Arab bitterness at Israel's victory, "much to the credit of the Lebanese authorities." Armored cars also are still posted at the British and American Embassies.

The Arab loss of Old Jerusalem was a "staggering setback" to Lebanon's attraction as a center for tourism, the Times also reported. People came to the Middle East mainly to see Lebanon and Jerusalem. Lebanon needed a quiet period to deal with economic problems before the June war, which has proved to be a "great blow" to the Lebanese economy, the Times reported.

Rumania Praised in U.S. Senate for Rejecting Moscow's Anti-Israel Position

WASHINGTON, August 2, (JTA) -- Sen. Stuart Symington, Missouri Democrat, praised on the Senate floor today the refusal of Rumania to agree to the formal anti-Israel position of the Soviet Union and all other Soviet bloc countries. Rumania was the only Soviet bloc country which did not break off diplomatic relations with Israel during the June war.

Sen. Symington, chairman of the Near Eastern Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, cited an editorial in yesterday's Washington Evening Star which referred to Rumanian Government statements urging the Arabs to make peace with Israel. The Senator said the Rumanian position seemed to make sense. The editorial said that "possibly Rumania's sound advice may yet find a hearing and a positive response in the self-deluded Arab world, a world desperately in need of such action." Sen. Symington commended the editorial.

Anti-Semitic Elements in Polish Government Reported Gaining Ground on Israel Issue

LONDON, August 2, (JTA) -- Reliable reports received here today from Warsaw indicated that the Stalinists and anti-Semites among leaders of the Polish Communist Government seemed to be winning the internal struggle which developed after the Government launched a series of virulent attacks on Israel after the May-June crisis and Middle East war.

In addition to the three Polish Army generals who reportedly were dismissed last week for refusing to distribute anti-Israel statements to their units, several politicians also were reported to have resigned on the issue. According to the reports, there is a determined effort by the old-line elements to return to the situation of 1956 when Poland was under almost direct Soviet domination.

If this proves to be the case, the sources said, Communist Party leader Wladyslaw Gomulka, who led the battle for greater freedom for Poland from Soviet domination, may be in trouble despite his lengthy and vehement anti-Israel orations and his attack on Polish Jews for rejoicing in Israel's June victory.

Jews to Observe 15th Anniversary of 'Liquidation' of Jewish Intellectuals in Russia

LONDON, August 2, (JTA) -- Preparations were underway today in London and in other western European communities to mark the 15th anniversary on August 12 of the execution of the Jewish writers and intellectuals in Moscow and other Soviet cities during the Stalin-directed terror against Soviet Jews.

The Jewish intellectuals were charged with treachery, crimes against the state and party and "contacts with criminal elements abroad." The 1952 executions were the climax of an anti-Jewish campaign which began in 1948 against Soviet intellectuals, scholars and writers with Jewish-sounding names. Even now, details of the interrogations and tortures to which the victims were subjected, are not fully known, nor is there information available as to where the victims were buried.

Some of the victims were "rehabilitated" by announcements that a particular individual was "a victim of the Stalin personality cult." The 1952 executions did not mark the end of the campaign. In 1953, a group of physicians, most of them Jews, were arrested in the "Doctors Plot" and reportedly confessed to plans to poison Soviet leaders. Only the death of Stalin in March, 1963 ended the officially-sponsored anti-Jewish campaign. The doctors who survived were released and their civil rights restored but succeeding Soviet regimes have never formally condemned the campaign, other than issuance of vague references to "Stalin's personality cult."

Germany Prepares for Two Major War Crimes Trials of Nazis Who Killed Jews

HAMBURG, August 2, (JTA) -- Plans were reported here today for two major war crimes trials, one for a group of Nazis who operated in the Lublin district in occupied Poland and the other for a group of 240 Nazis stationed in Riga, the capital of Latvia. Both are charged with mass-killing of Jews.

The trial of the Lublin group will begin here on October 30. The date for the other trial, on which 50 prosecutors have been working for eight years, will be held before the end of the year. Ten survivors of the Riga ghetto made depositions in London. One of them was the cinema actor, Joseph Dubin-Behrman, who also survived the Dondangen and Buchenwald death camps. The actor, who plays the role of a double agent in the film, "The Naked Runner," said he based his character on his personal experiences with the Gestapo.

N.Y. State Constitutional Convention to Act on Aid to Students of Religious Schools

ALBANY, N.Y., August 2. (JTA) -- A Constitutional Convention committee was expected to complete today action on a proposal to repeal a 73-year-old state constitutional ban on financial aid to religious-sponsored schools and to report the recommendation to the convention floor next week.

The Convention Committee on Bill of Rights and Suffrage voted yesterday 16 to eight, with one abstention and two absentees, to recommend repeal of Article XI, Section 3 of the state constitution, popularly known as the Blaine Amendment. Organized Jewry in New York State is sharply split on the proposal. Most Jewish religious and civil rights groups favor its retention. Orthodox Jewish organizations are joined with the Catholic Church in favor of repeal.

Andrew R. Tyler, committee chairman, said the vote was tentative because a number of proposals are linked to the repeal recommendation on which the committee will vote as a package tonight. The Blaine Amendment states that New York State may not use its funds "directly or indirectly" to aid "any school or institution of learning wholly or in part under the control or direction of any religious denomination." A substantial number of Jewish day schools under Orthodox Jewish sponsorship are affected.

To preserve the principle of church-state separation in the state constitution, wording similar to that in the federal constitution would be added to the state constitution to provide that no law should be enacted "respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The federal government has provided millions of dollars in federal aid to students in religiously-linked schools from the primary to the university level under that amendment.

The committee also is working on language for a clause to permit any New York citizen to go to court to restrain any unconstitutional government act in the state, such as using public funds for religious purposes. A citizen may now sue the state only if he can prove he has been personally damaged by a governmental action.

Before the tentative vote to recommend repeal of the Blaine Amendment, the committee rejected by a 12 to eight vote an alternative proposal to permit the State Legislature to provide food and health services to pupils in religious schools. They now receive textbook aid and bus transportation from state funds.

Israel Industrial Exhibition Opens in New York; Precision Instruments Shown

NEW YORK, August 2. (JTA) -- Israel's industrial products went on display today at the Israel Industrial Exhibition at permanent facilities located on the grounds of Aerodynamic Industries, Inc., Farmington, Long Island. The most up-to-date products of Israel's precision industries are being shown in the exhibit organized at the behest of the Israel Government.

A list of 300 leaders of American manufacturing companies attended the opening reception. Aerodynamic Industries, Inc. is a nationwide distributor of military and aerospace products which has been assigned to serve as sales representative for Israel's industries. Samuel M. Mendelow, president of the company, said his firm was chosen by the Israel Government because of its experience in dealing with the types of industrial firms Israel is trying to reach.

Pottery Describing the War of the Hebrews Against Edom 2,500 Years Ago Excavated

JERUSALEM, August 2. (JTA) -- Excavations at Tel Arad in North Beersheba brought forth fragments of pottery inscribed with a description of the mobilization of ancient Israelite troops against the Edomites. The fragments date back to 600 years before the Christian era, during the time of Jeremiah at the end of the period of the First Temple.

Nineteen inscriptions in legible Hebrew were found. They mention Elyashiv Ben Ashiyahu, commander of the Tel Arad fortress. The town threatened by an Edomite attack was Ramat Negeb.

Leader of Belgian Jewish Community Receives High Decoration from Government

BRUSSELS, August 2. (JTA) -- Leo Maersdorf, a leader of the Brussels and Antwerp Jewish communities, has received the award of the Grand Officer of the Order de la Couronne, one of the highest in Belgium. Mr. Maersdorf is current chairman of the Fund for the Defense of Israel here.

Adrien Arcand, Canadian Fascist Leader Dies; Was Interned During War

TORONTO, August 2. (JTA) -- Adrien Arcand, a pre-war Canadian Fascist leader in the Quebec province, died today at the age of 67 after six months of illness. He was known as an anti-Semite.

He attracted national attention in 1938 when he claimed that his National Unity Party had 100,000 members and drew thousands to rallies in Montreal. He was interned for five years during World War II, blaming the Canadian Jewish Congress for his internment. He tried a comeback after his release but never regained prominence in Canadian extremist movements.