

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXV - Fifty-First Year

Thursday, February 8, 1968

No. 27

UN Development Agency to Help Finance Pilot Desalination Plant in Israel

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 7 (JTA)--Establishment of a desalination project in Israel to attempt to improve the technology of obtaining fresh water from brackish waters was announced here today by the United Nations. The project, to take three years, will cost \$1,974,900, of which the United Nations Development Program will contribute \$730,000 while the Government of Israel has contributed \$1,244,000, according to the UNDP. The project will be established at a pilot plant at Mshabei Sade, about 20 miles from Beersheba.

Jacob R. Oloie of Holland, an engineer who is a member of the Netherlands National Commission on Water Desalination, was appointed by the UNDP today to head the project in Israel's Negev Desert. The pilot plant according to Mr. Oloie is expected to produce 1.3 million gallons of desalinated water from brackish water per day at initial cost of between 25-35 cents per thousand gallons.

British Mideast Policy Unchanged by Talks With Eshkol, Kosygin, Says Wilson

LONDON, Feb. 7 (JTA)--Prime Minister Harold Wilson indicated in the House of Commons today that his meeting with Israel Prime Minister Levi Eshkol last month and subsequently with Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin, wrought no changes in British policy in the Middle East.

The Prime Minister was asked by Raymond Fletcher, Labor MP, if he intended to discuss changes in British Middle East policy with President Johnson in light of his talks with Eshkol and Kosygin. Mr. Wilson replied in writing that British policy stands on the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution and that he so informed the Israeli and Soviet leaders when he met with them. He reiterated the principles embodied in that resolution, namely withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied territories, the termination of the state of belligerency and acknowledgement of the right of every state in the area to security within recognized boundaries. "Her Majesty's Government sponsored this resolution and remains fully committed to it," the Prime Minister said.

U.S. Holds Key to Israel-Arab Settlement, Dayan Tells Students

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan told a student forum here last night that if the United States applied sufficient pressure to the Arab states they would agree to start peace negotiations with Israel. "The key to war in the Middle East is in the hands of the Soviet Union and the key to a political settlement is in the hands of the United States," he said.

Gen. Dayan said that the Arab states have regained the strength they possessed before last June's Six Day War and were theoretically capable of mounting a two front offensive against Israel. But numbers alone do not make for operative strength, he said and the Arabs know they are too weak to wage another war and will not start one unless they have the support of a great power. He said the expansion of Soviet strength and influence in the Middle East in the past year had long been planned by the Kremlin and was not brought about by the Arab-Israeli war.

Arabs, Africans, Communists Stage Walkout When Israeli Addresses UNCTAD Parley

NEW DELHI, Feb. 7 (JTA)--A mass walkout was staged at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) here today when Zeev Sharef, Israel's Minister of Commerce and Industry and head of the Israeli delegation, mounted the rostrum to make his initial address before the international gathering. Leaving the chamber were the entire Arab bloc, most African delegations and the Communist bloc delegations with the notable exception of Rumania. The walk-out was joined by Pakistan, Afghanistan and some members of the Indian delegation.

The demonstration, with its clearly political motive, injected an unsavory note into what all of the delegates agree, at least officially, is a non-political parley. UNCTAD was convened to devise global strategy toward helping underdeveloped nations advance in areas of trade and commerce.

Mr. Sharef was apparently unaware of the walk-out when he delivered his speech and was unruined when he learned of it afterwards. However it was noted by observers here that the incident was the first in which a Soviet representative deliberately walked out when an Israeli of ministerial rank addressed an international forum. Rumania's failure to leave with the other Communist countries was seen as evidence that Rumania continues to maintain cordial relations with Israel. Rumania was the only Communist country that did not sever diplomatic relations with Israel after last June's Arab-Israeli war.

Ambassador Michael Comay floor chairman of the Israeli delegation, noted at a press conference later that Israel has "very good relations with Rumania and we have recently concluded a trade agreement with them."

At this morning's UNCTAD sessions, the Arab delegates and the USSR carefully refrained from mentioning the Middle East or Viet Nam — the two global hot spots — in their speeches. Two Communist bloc nations did, however. The Czech delegate referred to Viet Nam and the "recent aggression against some of the Arab countries." Yesterday, the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Trade, Ivan Boudinov, charged that "American aggression" in Viet Nam and Israel's refusal to withdraw from its "illegal occupation" of Arab territory were obstacles to the aims of the conference. The Bulgarian delegate was sharply rebuked by Ambassador Comay for making political references at a non-political conference.

This, and India's pressure on the Arabs not to embitter the proceedings, apparently caused the restraint shown later on by speakers from Iraq, the United Arab Republic and the USSR.

Mr. Sharef, in his address, called for liberal measures to promote trade with nations trying to develop their industry and commerce, supported by a flow of aid. The alternative, he warned, would be the development of several closed and unequal blocs.

Iraqi President Arrives in Paris to Seek Fighter Planes, Other Arms

PARIS, Feb. 7 (JTA)--President Aref of Iraq, accompanied by 30 aides, arrived here today for three days of talks with President de Gaulle covering the recent oil agreements signed by France and Iraq, negotiations for French exploitation rights of Iraqi oilfields and the sale of modern aircraft and other arms to Iraq. President de Gaulle personally greeted the Iraqi president and said his visit to Paris at this time had "special significance."

The Iraqis, it was reported, expect to conclude arrangements during President Aref's stay here for the purchase of Mirage V jet fighter-bombers, other types of aircraft and ground warfare equipment and for the training of Iraqi Air Force pilots in France.

(The Times of London reported from Paris today that there is no question of the 50 Mirage jets ordered by Israel before the June war being diverted to Iraq but said there is nothing to prevent Iraq from placing orders of her own. It pointed out that jet planes ordered now would not be ready for delivery for 18 months, by which time the French embargo on arms deliveries to the Middle East would probably be lifted.)

Rabin Voices Hope for Improvement of French-Israeli Relations

PARIS, Feb. 7 (JTA)--Gen. Itzhak Rabin, former Israeli chief of staff and Ambassador-designate to the United States, arrived here today on vacation before taking up his duties in Washington. In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, he expressed the hope that Franco-Israeli relations would be improved. He said that "in any case, we cannot forget that France aided us greatly for many years."

Commenting on reports that France would sell Mirage aircraft to Iraq although delivery of these planes to Israel has been embargoed, Gen. Rabin commented that Iraq participated in the war against Israel last June and the first Israeli plane to be shot down was brought down by the Iraqi forces.

French Envoy Repudiates Idea Anti-Semitism Could Influence French Govt. Policies

NEW YORK, Feb. 7 (JTA)--The French Ambassador to the United States, Charles Lucet, denounced tonight as "calumnious" suggestions that anti-Semitism could in any way affect the policies of the French Government. French President Charles de Gaulle has been under severe criticism for several months since he criticized Israel and the Jewish people at a press conference last year.

Speaking at a reception tendered him by 150 Jewish leaders of the American Friends of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, the envoy also said that Israel's right to existence "must be recognized as a fact." He insisted that the fact that France, "in conformity with its historical tradition, also has good relations with the Arab states, should in no way offend the State of Israel." He added he was sure it did not. He commented that France had "contributed to a large extent to the development, progress and security of the young state."

Prof. Rene Cassin, honorary head of the French Council of State, told the reception that difficulties and misunderstandings of a "transitory nature" should not affect "what is basic and permanent" in the attitudes of one people toward another. He is president of the Alliance.

Poll Shows 74% of Americans Have Favorable Attitude Towards Israel

NEW YORK, Feb. 7 (JTA)--Seventy-four percent of adult Americans have a favorable attitude toward Israel according to the latest Gallup Poll which asked a national sampling of 1,583 persons to indicate how much they like 28 nations of the world. This put Israel one percentage point below West Germany in the popularity rating but 35 points ahead of Egypt. The latter country, the only Arab nation on the list, was favored by only 39 percent of those polled. The three most popular countries among Americans according to the poll are Canada, Switzerland and Australia. The least popular are North Viet Nam, Cuba and Communist China.

State Dept. Receives 'Interim Report' From Czechoslovakia on Jordan Death

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (JTA)--A State Department spokesman confirmed today that the United States Government has received an "interim report" on the death of Charles H. Jordan, Joint Distribution Committee official, who died under mysterious circumstances in Prague, last August.

The spokesman said the report by the Czechoslovakian Government was not final. It was indicated that the Czechoslovaks regard the matter as still under investigation and have not closed the books.

The exact circumstances of Mr. Jordan's death remained unclear and no new information of any consequence was found in the interim report, State Department sources said.

Mr. Jordan, 59 years old at his death, served as executive vice-chairman of the American Joint Distribution Committee.

Conference of Latin American Jewish Communities in Buenos Aires is Postponed

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 7 (JTA)--The fifth conference of Latin American Jewish communities, scheduled to open here on March 30, has been postponed because the date conflicted with the Israel Emergency Fund campaign, it was announced here today. A new date will be announced.

Dr. Isaac Goldenberg, president of the Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentina (DAIA) and Mark Turkow, general secretary of the South American section of the World Jewish Congress, reported today on the 15th biennial session of the WJC's British section which they attended in London last week. They addressed a plenary session of the DAIA, the central representative body of Argentine Jewry. Dr. Goldenberg also reported on his talks with Jewish leaders in the United States, Mexico, Guatemala and Panama.

Belgian Govt. To Give Subsidy for Jewish Social Welfare Programs

BRUSSELS, Feb. 7 (JTA)--The Belgian Government will grant a yearly subsidy to the Centrale D'Oeuvres Sociales Juives, the organization that raises funds to support Jewish social services in Belgium, it was announced here last night.

The announcement was made by Mrs. De Riemaecker, Minister of Housing and Family Affairs, who spoke at a dinner marking the close of the Centrale's current fund-raising campaign. Raymond Abrahams, campaign chairman, announced that this year's quota, the equivalent of \$150,000, has been raised.

Maidanek Survivors Meet in Lublin to Plan Camp Liberation Anniversary

LUBLIN, Poland, Feb. 7 (JTA)--Survivors of the infamous Maidanek concentration camp met here to plan a 25th anniversary commemoration of the liberation of the death camp by Allied forces in World War II. The survivors came from Poland and other European countries. Their program calls for a conference of survivors and the unveiling of a memorial stone recording the fact that the citizens of 22 countries were killed at Maidanek by the Nazis. The survivors will also published a journal recounting the camp's history and personal memoirs of survivors.

Yugoslav Jews Honor Memory of Subotica Resistance Group

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Feb. 7 (JTA)--A monument was unveiled in Subotica in memory of a group of Jewish youths who were hanged there by Fascists in 1941 for resistance activities, it was reported today in the Jewish Review, organ of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Yugoslavia. The monument was designed by the sculptor, Nandor Glid, who is a member of the Belgrade Jewish community. Mr. Glid designed memorials erected at the sites of the Mauthausen and Dachau concentration camps. His design for the latter won an international contest.

Sufferings of Camp Victims Have Effected Their Children, Psychiatrist Reports

HAMILTON, Ont., Feb. 7 (JTA)--The suffering of concentration camp victims at the hands of the Nazis during World War II is having a distressing effect on their children who were born after the holocaust, a prominent psychiatrist said at a lecture here. Dr. Vivian Rakoff, a member of the department of psychiatry at Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, said that the children of concentration camp families were often extremely depressed or potential delinquents. Dr. Rakoff spoke at a meeting sponsored by the psychiatry department of McMaster University here.

"These kids were treated like young princelings," he said. "Their parents felt that they were so precious that they wouldn't discipline them or they were so tired they just didn't have the energy to do so." "The offspring of the camp survivors were expected to fulfill the lives of all those the Nazis destroyed."

"These children found it difficult to express the anger and resentment they often felt toward their parents because of the realization of what they had suffered. But when they hit adolescence, the explosion is often violent," Dr. Rakoff said. He cited two cases of attempted suicide by teen aged children of parents who survived Nazi concentration camps. "We must have been idiots to think that the effects of these terrible experiences wouldn't be passed on to a future generation," he said.

Orthodox Rabbis Urge Jewish Conference on State Aid to Religious Education

LAKEWOOD, N.J., Feb. 7 (JTA)--The head of the Rabbinical Council of America called today for a national conference between the opponents and proponents, within the Jewish community of government aid to religious education. Rabbi Pesach Z. Levovitz, president of the Orthodox group, told the closing session of its annual mid-winter conference here that such a conference should explore all aspects of the problem and "seek a mutually acceptable formula that will move the problem from debate and bitterness to harmony and implementation." Rabbi Levovitz said that the conferees should include representatives of all segments of the Jewish community, those who conduct the religious educational system and such national defense agencies as the B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee.

The question of state aid to religious schools was a major election issue in New York, Pennsylvania and several other states last November and continues to be unresolved. Orthodox Jewish groups have joined with Roman Catholics in supporting state aid to religious schools. The major Jewish defense and civil rights agencies and the Conservative and Reform branches of Judaism vigorously oppose it as a violation of the principle of separation of church and state.

The conference also urged the nation's two major political parties and their potential presidential candidates not to permit pre-occupation with the Viet Nam war to quash debate on other problems of American life "in this turbulent period through which we are passing."

Rabbi Israel Klavan, Council executive vice president, listed these problems as poverty, the urban crisis, civil rights, black power, the crisis in education, crime, the treatment of the aged and the alienation of the younger generation. Rabbi Zev Segal, first vice president of the Council, said it is "imperative to hold full scale debates" on these problems.

Toronto Y Head Defends Sabbath Program, Stresses Its 'Spiritual Values'

TORONTO, Feb. 7 (JTA)--The president of the YM & YWHA answered a protest by 15 local rabbis against the Y remaining open on the Sabbath, by declaring today that the institution's new policy of keeping open from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays "will not conflict in any way with Sabbath services." President Alex Fisher termed the new Saturday program "unique." He said there will be more emphasis on "spiritual values, sports will be non-competitive and the snack bar will be closed."

The rabbis, including one Reform and six Conservative, charged that the Y "in its cultural and social programs has progressively reduced the Jewish element, moving further and further away from identification with Judaism." They also complained that the Y's snack bar does not observe the dietary laws.

Mr. Fisher said he welcomed help from the rabbis to improve the Y program if it "doesn't have enough spiritual content." He declared that the Y wanted to service young Jewish people "in a meaningful way and keep them from the trouble some are getting into on Saturdays" at Yorkville, Toronto's "hippie" area.

Mr. Fisher said that he and the Y Board had surveyed some 70 YMHA programs in the United States where Sabbath programs are in effect. He said only one branch of the Y was open on Saturdays, for children 12 and under because "we are overwhelmed on Sundays and many of these children have little to do on Saturdays."

Priest Says Israelis Will Be 'Faithful Guardians' of Jerusalem Holy Places

BALTIMORE, Feb. 7 (JTA)--A prominent Roman Catholic priest who is author of several books on the Middle East, has supported Israel's creation of a united Jerusalem and expressed confidence that "Israel would be a faithful guardian of all holy places" there.

Rev. Edward H. Flannery, of Seton Hall University, referred to the recent Israeli law promising protection for and free access to the sanctuaries of all faiths in Jerusalem. In an address before 150 clergymen meeting at the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, he contrasted this with the "contempt shown to Jews by the Jordanian Government" which barred them from their holy places during Jordan's occupation of East Jerusalem. He also noted the past sins of Christendom against the Jews and remarked, "one can appreciate the spirit of reconciliation embodied in this law."

Rev. Flannery is executive director of the recently established Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the American Bishops Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. He is co-director of the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies at the Catholic university. He said that Israel was not the aggressor in last June's Six-Day War but that the Arabs had been provocative in their actions during Israel's entire tenure as an independent state. Israel, Rev. Flannery said, deserved the support of his "fellow Christians."

B'nai B'rith Publishes Portfolio on President Lincoln and The Jews

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith announced publication today of a portfolio of historic letters and documents titled "Lincoln and The Jews," which features facsimiles of seven items relating to the Civil War president's relations with the Jewish community of his time.

The project "seeks through historic memorabilia to bring to public attention the role Jews have played in American life," said Philip D. Sang of Chicago, acting chairman of the B'nai B'rith Jewish Historical Committee.