

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright: Replication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXV - Fifty-First Year

Wednesday, June 12, 1968

No. 112

Israel Government, Jewish Agency Will Study Coordination Of Immigration, Absorption

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA)--A statement announcing that the Israel Government and the Jewish Agency have agreed immediately to examine means of coordinating their activities in the fields of immigration and absorption was released here tonight. The announcement said that the discussions would be conducted by a committee consisting of three Cabinet ministers and three members of the Jewish Agency Executive. But it did little to allay the fears of many delegates to the 27th World Zionist Congress that the Government was about to divest the Jewish Agency of its responsibility for immigrant absorption.

Those fears were aroused when the Cabinet announced Sunday night that it had decided to establish a Ministry of Absorption without stipulating, as had been expected, that the new Ministry's function would apply only to later or permanent absorption. The Jewish Agency has insisted that it retain control over absorption in its initial stages.

This evening's statement was regarded by many as noncommittal and still leaving the whole issue up in the air. Delegates active in fund-raising for Israel abroad argued that the elimination of the Jewish Agency from an absorption role would weaken the basis of their campaign appeals and slogans and that it would be difficult to find a legal means to transmit philanthropic funds for the assistance to immigrants to the Israel Government. This point of view was fully supported by the Jewish Agency chairman, Aryeh L. Pincus, who stated this morning that the Jewish Agency must continue to handle the initial absorption processes with the Government taking over only after the new immigrant has overcome the first difficulties. Such a stipulation had been expected in this evening's statement.

Israelis Speculate About New Absorption Minister, Allon Mentioned

The Cabinet announcement yesterday that a Ministry of Absorption would soon be added to the Israel Government has stirred speculation about who will get the new portfolio, provided the Cabinet decides to establish one, something it has not yet done. A front runner in the speculation over the possible new Cabinet post is Labor Minister Yigal Allon. Should Gen. Allon, the 1948 Haganah commander, switch jobs, it is believed that former Rafi Party leader Yosef Almogi would become Minister of Labor. There was no comment from Mr. Almogi this morning other than to say that no one had approached him on the subject. It was reported previously that Mr. Almogi was slated to become secretary-general of Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, after the next general elections in which incumbent Aharon Becker may not be a candidate.

The Cabinet, however, may not create a full Minister for the absorption post, but establish the title of deputy minister of absorption. In that case, according to some sources, the post would go to Arie Eliav, a member of the Knesset (Parliament) who was formerly deputy minister of trade and industry. Others said today that Mr. Eliav would become deputy minister of absorption even if a full minister were appointed.

Delegates To Zionist Congress Debate Whether Goldmann Should Stay As President

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA)--The question of whether Dr. Nahum Goldmann should continue as president of the World Zionist Organization is a cardinal issue in behind the scenes meetings at the World Zionist Congress here. When the Congress' standing committee held its first session today, the Confederation of General Zionists, headed by Dr. Israel Goldstein and Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, of New York, announced that it would not enter the new Jewish Agency Executive unless Dr. Goldmann continued as WZO president.

Dr. Goldmann, who announced several months ago that he did not intend to stand for re-election, was nevertheless also supported by the Mapam, Liberal and Mizrahi factions. But the Labor Zionist faction, which accounts for about 40 percent of the Congress delegates, said pointedly that it "had noted" Dr. Goldmann's statement that he does not intend to be a candidate for another term as president. The Union of General Zionists, headed by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, of New York, has given its members a free hand to vote as they please. Dr. Neumann said, in the course of a debate today, that he thought the attacks on Dr. Goldmann for some of his political statements had been unfair and exaggerated. But he disputed Dr. Goldmann's view that a Zionist leader may express his own political opinions with complete freedom. Dr. Neumann stressed that he did not aspire to the office of WZO president.

The wrangle over the future presidency is not concerned with personalities but rather with the question of whether the office itself should be retained or abolished. No alternate candidate to Dr. Goldmann has been officially proposed by any faction. The Labor Zionists want to leave the post vacant. But other parties object on the grounds that it would transfer the powers and influence of the presidency to the chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, Aryeh L. Pincus, who represents the Labor faction.

In the debate over aliyah (immigration) today, Jacob Hazan, of the left-wing Mapam Party, disputed the implication by some leaders of the Orthodox Mizrahi faction that religious motives were the main force behind aliyah. Mr. Hazan said that the majority of immigrants had come from socialist organizations and combined the vision of social justice with that of national rebirth.

Youth Organizations Expected To Be Admitted Into Zionist Movement

The World Zionist Congress was expected to make Zionist history today by accepting non-affiliated Jewish youth organizations into full membership in the Zionist movement. The recommendation to admit the youth organizations, mainly student groups, was made by the Congress presidium and was virtually certain to be approved by the steering committee. The ease with which the youngsters won recognition, without the fight they had been prepared to wage, has encouraged them to make further demands and to press vigorously for a program that would drastically alter the structure of the World Zionist Organization.

The youth groups are represented at the Congress by 11 Jewish students from the United States, Britain, France, Sweden, South Africa and Australia and six Israelis, all of the World Jewish Students Organization. Some of their demands, which reportedly include a seat on the WZO Executive, coupled with exuberant demonstrations outside the Congress Hall and a shower of pamphlets and posters within, have ranked some oldtimers.

The basic student demand was summed up in slogans painted on cars which they drove in a demonstration outside the Congress Hall: "Away With the Old" and "Give Zionism A Younger Image." Specifically they are asking for abolition of the party system in the Zionist organization; the appointment of experts, rather than party nominees, to high WZO posts; and the expansion of the Zionist framework to include bodies not affiliated with Israeli political parties. Michael Hunter, spokesman for the International Union of Jewish Students, which claims to have chapters on campuses in 30 countries, warned on the Congress floor yesterday that the party system must be abolished, "otherwise our first appearance here may be our last."

Archaeologists Excavate Paving Stones At Temple Site Laid During Herod's Reign

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA)--Archaeologists excavating on the site of the Temple in Old Jerusalem have unearthed several large stones which were once part of the pavement leading to the southern entrance of the holiest of Jewish shrines. The archaeological team, headed by Prof. Benjamin Mazar of the Hebrew University, found the stones under six feet of debris after digging through 13 layers representing various eras of Jerusalem's long history. The discovery was made on the 100th day of digging which happened to coincide with the first anniversary of the liberation of East Jerusalem by Israel.

The stones were described as weighing about a quarter of a ton each and measuring approximately two feet by three feet. They were laid down during the reign of Herod Antipas who lived from 20 B.C.E. to 39 C.E. and was king of Judaea under the Roman occupation at the start of the Christian era. The discovery revealed a possible error in the account by the contemporary Jewish historian Josephus who said the Temple area was paved with marble. The slabs found were of well dressed grey Jerusalem stone. It is believed that some of them may have toppled from the southern wall of the Temple when it was destroyed by the Roman Emperor Titus in 70 C.E. Prof. Mazar's archaeological work is being carried out under permits issued by the Department of Antiquities of the Israel Government and the Jerusalem municipality. Attempts by the Chief Rabbinate to block the scientific undertaking as sacreligious were rejected by the authorities.

U.S. Official, At Tel Aviv Fair, Says 'Human Capital' Is Great Israeli Resource

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA)--United States Undersecretary of Commerce Howard J. Samuels declared here today that "human capital" is the most valuable resource in a developing country like Israel. Mr. Samuels spoke at an "American Day" celebration at the International Trade Fair here. He said that there was "plenty of evidence of this natural resource" in Israel and that he was enthusiastic over Israel's progress both as a Jew and as an American businessman. If America fails to recognize the value of this human capital it will lose many customers not only in Israel but in much of Africa, Mr. Samuels said.

Belgium, Israel Open Negotiations In Dispute Over Sabena Flights To Israel

BRUSSELS, June 11 (JTA)--Air traffic negotiations are expected to open here soon between Belgium and Israel to work out a snag that developed after last year's negotiations when Israel's national airline, El Al, complained of Belgian competition. According to last year's agreement, the Belgian airline, Sabena, was authorized to add a second weekly flight to Tel Aviv to cater to an anticipated increase in tourist traffic between the two countries. El Al claimed that the increased traffic does not originate in Belgium but consists of American tourists who pass through Brussels on their way to Israel. The added Sabena flight is directly competitive to El Al's regular flights from New York to Tel Aviv, the Israeli airline said.

Israeli Chief of Staff, Families of Dakar Victims, Send Condolences on Scorpion

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA)--The Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces, Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev, and the commander of the Israeli Navy, Shlomo Erel, yesterday cabled condolences to the United States Navy over the loss in mid-Atlantic of the nuclear submarine Scorpion. A message of condolence was also sent by a committee representing the families of crew members of the Israeli submarine Dakar which disappeared with all hands in the eastern Mediterranean last February.

Four Mines Are Discovered Near Shaar Hagolan In Jordan Valley; Forces Exchange Fire

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA)--Four mines were discovered today near the Jordan Valley settlement of Shaar Hagolan. A military spokesman said Israeli and Jordanian forces exchanged fire across the demarcation line in the Mandassa Bridge area.

Two Chief Aides Of Adolf Eichmann Go On Trial Again For Murder Of Hungarians

FRANKFURT, June 11 (JTA)--The two chief aides of Adolf Eichmann in the deportation of some 300,000 Hungarian Jews to the death centers went on trial here today for the second time on charges of complicity in the massacre. Former Lieut. Col. Hermann Krumei, 63, and former Captain Otto Hunsche, 56, who was Eichmann's chief legal advisor, faced a court today composed of three judges and six jurors. Krumei had been convicted in a Frankfurt court in 1964 and sentenced to five years imprisonment. Hunsche had been acquitted. The public prosecutor appealed both decisions and the West German Supreme Court ordered the retrial of both men.

Both men were officers in the SS, Hitler's elite force. Their previous trial lasted for nearly 10 months. During the proceedings, Krumei, whom Eichmann had once described as one of his closest associates, was identified as the man who negotiated with the Western powers in Eichmann's behalf, offering to barter one million Jews for 10,000 trucks for Hitler's Army. Both men denied knowing that the Jews, whose deportations they had ordered were being sent to death camps. Krumei also sought to defend his acts by claiming that he was a small functionary carrying out orders. When the trial opened today, Judge Werner Hummerich, the presiding judge, excused one juror who said he hated the defendants because of the injuries his family had suffered at the hands of the Nazis.

Strauss Opposes Continued Prosecution Of War Criminals

MUNICH, West Germany, June 11 (JTA)--Franz Josef Strauss, the Federal Finance Minister and chairman of the Christian Social Union Party, has spoken out against the continued prosecution of Nazi war criminals beyond the end of next year. He told a CSU youth group that the "cleansing operation conducted for more than 20 years cannot go on that way." He said the time had come to call a halt.

Three years ago, the Bundestag voted to extend the 20-year statute of limitations for war crimes until Jan. 1, 1970. Mr. Strauss said he did not sympathize with the Nazis but indicated enough was enough in prosecuting offenses of years ago. The West German Government has not yet decided whether to ask Parliament to abolish the statute of limitations on war crimes or prolong it. If it takes no action, war criminals who were not indicted before Dec. 31, 1969 will be forever free from prosecution in Germany, unless dossiers have been built up and cases are planned against them.

Party Leader Of National Democrats, With Nazi Record, Kept Out Of Party Talks

BONN, June 11 (JTA) - A deputy leader of the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD), who has a Nazi record going back to the pre-World War II era, is being kept out of sessions of the party's leaders in which high level strategy is being mapped for next year's national elections. Officially, the absence of deputy Wilhelm Jutman has been explained by the fact that he is in the hospital. It was reliably learned, however, that his participation in the party counsels would embarrass NPD chairman Adolph Von Thadden who is trying to rid the party image of the taint of extremism. Jutman, who served a long prison sentence beginning in 1947, has been accused of taking part in the notorious "crystal night" of November, 1938, when synagogues were burned and Jewish business establishments were wrecked all over Germany.

Von Thadden, meanwhile, announced at a press conference that the NPD will spend between nine and ten million marks (more than \$2 million) in its campaign for seats in the Bundestag, West Germany's lower house. The party, which has been described here and abroad as "neo-Nazi," holds seats in seven of the country's 11 provincial legislatures. Its electoral progress has been viewed with growing alarm.

Hopes entertained by the NPD that a new election would have to be called in Baden-Wuerttemberg, scene of the party's greatest electoral triumph, were apparently dissipated today when it was disclosed that the Social Democratic Party had voted, by a large majority, to continue its coalition with the Christian Democratic Union in the state. The neo-Nazi party won 9.8 percent of the seats in the state legislature April 28, mainly at the expense of the Social Democrats. Withdrawal of the Social Democrats from the coalition would have made new elections necessary since the Christian Democrats did not have a majority by themselves and the only other party with whom they could enter a coalition, the Free Democrats, refused to join them.

Expect Recess Of General Assembly Without Consideration Of Middle East Issue

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 11 (JTA)--The current session of the General Assembly is expected to recess, possibly this week, without consideration of the Middle East question. If so, it is expected that Romania's Foreign Minister, Corneliu Manescu, Assembly president, will announce that the Assembly will be subject to recall for possible debate on the Middle East.

The current session is officially a continuation of the 22nd regular Assembly which convened last September and recessed in December until April. Its agenda items are nearly two-thirds disposed of. The issue of Southwest Africa has been decided and the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is expected to reach an Assembly vote this week.

The Middle East is the sole remaining undebated agenda item. It was not debated either during the September to December period or during the current series of meetings. Unless the Arab states or their Communist allies bring pressure to bear, it is not expected that there will be any more Assembly meetings until September, when the 23rd regular session is scheduled to convene.

Arabs Try To Force Entry Into Paris Synagogue; Repulsed By North African Jews

PARIS, June 11 (JTA)--A gang of Arabs armed with clubs tried to force its way into the synagogue on Julian LaCroix Street in the Belleville district early this morning but was barred by a group of North African Jews and fled when police arrived. The quarter was the scene of riots a week ago.

Oak Ridge Laboratory Will Study Potentialities Of Middle East Nuclear Centers

WASHINGTON, June 11 (JTA)--The United States Atomic Energy Commission announced today that the potentialities of nuclear powered energy centers in the Middle East were being studied by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. An agency spokesman said that Oak Ridge will explore the technical and economic feasibility of using nuclear power plants for producing fresh water and electricity in agro-industrial production complexes for development of arid regions of the Middle East. The study is consistent with previous feasibility research carried out jointly by Israel and the U.S. It is to a degree a response to a Senate resolution of 1967 calling on the U.S. Government to consider nuclear energy as a means of promoting regional cooperation in the Middle East and seeking Arab-Israel peace.

Soviet Jewish Delegation Coming Next Week, American Council For Judaism Says

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA)--A two-member Soviet Jewish religious delegation which had been scheduled to arrive in the United States on Monday but did not show up is coming next week, the American Council for Judaism said today. A spokesman for the Council, sponsor of the visit, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that his organization had received confirmation of the visit this morning but declined to comment on the reason for the delay.

The spokesman said that the Council has a "commitment" that Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow's Choral Synagogue and Cantor David Stitskin will still come to New York. The Council, at the same time, announced postponement of its June 13 meeting at Town Hall here at which Rabbi Levin was scheduled to appear "because of his delay in departing from Moscow."

The Council asked that ticket holders retain their tickets, which will be honored on a date and place to be announced within a few days. "The meeting is expected to take place next week," the Council said. A State Department spokesman in Washington said today that the Department had received no word from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow on the issuance of visas to the two Russian Jews.

Broyhill Asks Probe Of Arab Activities, Sees Assassination Link With El Fatah

WASHINGTON, June 11 (JTA)--The United States Attorney-General was asked today to investigate Arab activities in the U.S., in connection with the role of an Arab extremist in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Rep. Joel T. Broyhill, Virginia Republican, told the House that "the assassination was in obvious conformity with the stated aims of the pro-Communist Arab terrorist organization known as El Fatah. This group has advocated the emulation of the Viet Cong and the assassination of Israelis and others who dare support Israel."

The Congressman asked the Justice Department to ascertain the financial sources of the organizations of Arab students, their links with foreign embassies and connections with Stokely Carmichael and the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the New Left. Broyhill suggested that visas of Arab agitators be revoked and deportation orders issued.

Urges Moratorium On Discussion Of Mid-East Conflict During Campaign

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA)--The head of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, an Arab propaganda organization, called on the four major Presidential candidates today "to set a moratorium for the duration of the campaign on the discussion of the Arab-Israeli conflict so that there would be no need for any candidate to bid for the Jewish vote." According to Dr. M.T. Mehdi, secretary-general of the group, the moratorium would not be an abridgement of freedom of speech because it would be "a voluntarily imposed self-restraint...to prevent a greater evil." Dr. Mehdi made his moratorium call in identical telegrams to Vice President Hubert Humphrey, former Vice President Richard Nixon, Senator Eugene McCarthy and Governor Nelson Rockefeller.

He said the Arab-Israeli conflict should be taken out of the American political campaign out of respect for the memory of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy "if his tragic death should not go in vain." Dr. Mehdi repeated a statement he issued directly after the Kennedy assassination -- that the act of the accused gunman, Palestinian-born Sirhan Sirhan, reflected "the frustration of many Arabs with American politicians who have sold the Arab people of Palestine to the Zionist Jewish voters." That, according to Mehdi, "is an explanation, not a justification of Sirhan's action."

(Bishara Salameh Sirhan, father of the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, is seeking the help of Israeli officials to help him get to the United States to help his son, Sirhan, who lives on the West Bank, has reportedly sought information about documents and the foreign currency allocation necessary for such a trip. Sources said that no difficulties are expected if Sirhan proceeds with plans to go to the U.S.)

Navy Presents Medal Of Honor To Captain Of 'Liberty'; Ship Was Attacked By Israel

WASHINGTON, June 11 (JTA)--The Medal of Honor was presented today to the Navy officer who commanded the intelligence ship Liberty when it was attacked off the Sinai coast during the Six-Day War on June 8, 1967. Capt. William L. McConagle got the award in ceremonies in the Washington Naval Yard. It was presented by Paul R. Ignatius, Secretary of the Navy.

Thirty-four U.S. sailors were killed in the air and torpedo attack. Israel apologized and has paid \$3,323,500 in compensation. That sum was the full amount claimed by the U.S. on behalf of families of the dead sailors.

The Pentagon said Capt. McConagle was cited "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty."