

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. XXXVI-Fifty-Second Year

Thursday, June 12, 1969

No. 111

French Officials Say Orleans Slander Campaign Is Not An Organized Effort

ORLEANS, France, June 11 (JTA) -- Officials of the French Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Interior indicated today that an anti-Semitic whispering campaign that broke out here several weeks ago was the work of "a number of irresponsible and neurotic individuals" rather than an organized slander effort. That belief was shared by the local district governor, Jacques Graeve, who issued a communique today stating that the anti-Semitic "rash" in Orleans was not caused by an organized bloc but is exclusively the work of "isolated individuals who seem to act secretly and anonymously."

The two ministries intimated that they have opened an investigation, reports JTA's Paris correspondent, Edwin Eytan. But the campaign of slander, directed mainly against Jewish-owned shops in the heart of this prosperous city on the Loire, has already done considerable damage. Protests have been registered by prominent citizens and organizations, Jewish and non-Jewish, who likened the situation to that which existed in Nazi Germany before World War II.

The local teachers union has appealed to authorities to find out who was responsible for the campaign. Jewish shopkeepers affected have filed complaints of libel and slander against "third parties unknown." The anti-Semitic rumors have abated but a spontaneous boycott against several Jewish shops persists.

Authorities have been unable to trace the source of rumors which said that women were lured into the shops, drugged and sold as white slaves to brothels of the Middle East. The shops mentioned are all well known, popular establishments in the city's main shopping center. Among them are Dorphe's, Boutique de Sheila, Felix's and at least five others. The shops are all Jewish-owned but several are managed by non-Jews.

Whoever started the campaign is believed to have gotten the inspiration from a sex-and-crime weekly called Noir et Blanc which carried a story a month ago titled "Kidnapping in Grenoble." According to the story, a man's wife disappeared after entering a shop and was never seen again. She had been spirited off to Grenoble on the Italian border to be sold to the Middle East brothels, the story said. The rumors placed the shop in Orleans and identified it as Chez Dorphe. The rumor grew to include a tunnel to Boutique Sheila, a half mile away. Later rumors said the missing wife and two other women were found drugged and bound in the shop's cellar. A further rumor spread around town that \$20,000 in "Jewish gold" had been spent to hush up the affair.

As a result of the rumors, women were advised not to patronize the shops and not to enter them unaccompanied. The city fathers of Orleans said there was no precedent for such a whispering campaign in this city. Most citizens questioned now seem to discount the rumors. But some still say, "where there is smoke there must be fire."

West German Ruling Parties Agree To Extend Nazi Crimes Statute From 20 To 30 Years

BONN, June 11 (JTA) -- West Germany's two ruling coalition parties agreed yesterday to extend the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes prosecution from 20 to 30 years so that the search for and trial of Nazis involved in crimes of murder can continue. The statute of limitations is presently scheduled to go into effect at the end of 1969.

The draft bill, worked out between the Christian Democratic Union, headed by Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger, and the Social Democrats, headed by Foreign Minister Willy Brandt, went to the Bundestag (lower house) today where debate began. Informed sources said they were certain the measure would gain a parliamentary majority.

The draft was regarded as a compromise between Chancellor Kiesinger and Mr. Brandt, who wanted to abolish the statute altogether. The Chancellor favored exemption from prosecution of those who participated in murder under orders from their superiors. A West German Supreme Court ruled last month that persons who committed murder under orders could not be held guilty of murder for base motives. Only in cases where such motives can be proved can convictions be obtained in the future. The two parties also agreed to abolish the 20-year limit on prosecution for crimes of genocide.

Golda Meir Meets Harold Wilson, Reiterates Opposition To Big 4 Mideast Talks

LONDON, June 11 (JTA) -- Premier Golda Meir of Israel arrived here today and went directly to No. 10 Downing St. for an initial meeting with British Premier Harold Wilson. The meeting lasted a half hour. Mrs. Meir said afterwards that it was "most friendly" and that the two Prime Ministers had exchanged views on the general situation in the Middle East and on prospects for peace. Mrs. Meir will meet with Mr. Wilson again before she returns to Israel. The Israeli Premier came here officially to attend the conference of the Socialist International which opens at Bournemouth on Monday and which she will address. Tonight she was guest of honor at a dinner given by the Israeli Ambassador, Aharon Remez, attended by a number of Cabinet ministers and other high Government officials. At an airport press conference, Mrs. Meir reiterated her belief that the Big Four

Mideast talks cannot possibly settle the Middle East problem. She said Israel opposed the talks because its viewpoint was not represented by them. She said that this did not mean that some of the participants were not Israel's good friends but that they were also on friendly terms with the Arabs and could not represent Israel's viewpoint.

Mrs. Meir contended that only the sovereign states concerned could settle their difference among themselves. She said she was prepared to go to any Arab capital on short notice if invited to talk peace. and, by the same token, any Arab leader who wanted to talk peace would be most welcome in Jerusalem. Mrs. Meir said the Arabs' refusal of direct talks showed they did not want to talk peace or have peace.

Labor MP Fails To Have Commons Take Up Reported Sale Of Tanks To Libya

LONDON, June 11 (JTA) -- A Labor Member of Parliament tried unsuccessfully today to have the House of Commons take up a reported "Government proposal to sell Libya Chieftain tanks which it refused to sell to Israel." According to Reginald Paget, a deal was about to be closed for the sale of some \$96 million worth of British arms to Libya including a large number of the latest and most powerful model Chieftain tanks and Abbot mobile guns.

Mr. Paget said that Israel had placed an order for \$144 million worth of Chieftain tanks about a year ago which the Defense Ministry was anxious to accept. He asserted that the sale was held up by the Foreign Ministry which thought that it might compromise Britain's position in the Four Power Mideast talks. Mr. Paget said that the sale of these weapons to an Arab power would seriously compromise Britain's non-partisan role. He insisted that either the Foreign Secretary or Defense Minister come before the House to explain. The Speaker over-ruled Mr. Paget's request.

Israel's Premier Golda Meir, who arrived here today, denied a report in the Daily Express that she was going to protest to the British Government about the reported sale of Chieftains to Libya. (There was no comment in Jerusalem on the newspaper report. An Israel Government spokesman referred reporters to Mrs. Meir's statement at the London Airport.)

Javits Says Israelis Fear Russia Will 'Maneuver' U.S. Into Settlement

WASHINGTON, June 11 (JTA) -- Sen. Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, called on the Nixon Administration today to allay the fear widespread in Israel that the United States might be "maneuvered" by the Soviet Union into accepting a Middle East settlement inimical to Israel's security. Sen. Javits, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, spoke to newsmen on his return from a 17-day tour of Israel and Western Europe.

He said, "I found what is unusual to find in American-Israeli relations, a communications gap." He said it would be "very embarrassing" to the Israelis if they were presented with terms they could not accept "with the great U.S. being a proponent of those terms." Mr. Javits said that despite assurances he gave Israeli leaders that their fears were unfounded, they remained "deeply concerned about what the U.S. might be maneuvered into."

Sen. Javits said Israel's fears stemmed from the Four Power--U.S., Britain, France and Soviet Russia--Mideast talks which they opposed and the concurrent talks between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin. The New York Senator did not think either of those forums were "capable of producing an agreement which will bring about an early peace." He urged the Nixon Administration to clarify its viewpoint on a settlement to the Israel Government in order to bridge the "communications gap." He said there were "plenty of things" the U.S. and Russia could discuss short of an overall Mideast settlement, enumerating arms limitations in the area, the presence of their naval forces in the Mediterranean and free transit through international waterways.

Gromyko, Nasser Confer, Reportedly On New Big 4 Peace Plan

LONDON, June 11 (JTA) -- Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko conferred for nearly three hours today with Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser in Cairo on a reported new Big Four peace plan for the Mideast. The Soviet diplomat arrived in Cairo yesterday and conferred with Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad amid reports that Arab leaders were becoming disillusioned about the Kremlin's Mideast policies. Mr. Gromyko said on his arrival that the visit, his second in six months, was for "consultations" on a number of problems of "joint interest" to the United Arab Republic and the Soviet Union.

Western observers believe that Mr. Gromyko was seeking Col. Nasser's accord on a Mideast plan worked out at the Big Four talks in New York or at the concurrent U.S.-Soviet talks in Washington. All detected a note of urgency in Mr. Gromyko's trip to Cairo which was not announced in advance. They pointed out that it coincided with the conference of world Communist Party leaders now going on in Moscow and new outbreaks of fighting along the Sino-Soviet frontier, events ordinarily calculated to keep the Soviet Foreign Minister close to home.

135,000 Have Passed Through Youth Aliya Institutions, Hadassah Seminar Is Told

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA) -- Some 135,000 children have passed through Youth Aliya institutions in the 35 years of Youth Aliya's existence, according to Joseph Klarman, head of the Youth Aliya and a member of the Jewish Agency Executive. Mr. Klarman, speaking at a Hadassah seminar on education, said one out of 20 Jews in Israel was a graduate of a Youth Aliya institution or service.

Polish Government Announces Tightened Procedures On Emigration Of Jews

LONDON, June 11 (JTA) -- The Polish Government announced yesterday that it will tighten emigration procedures for Jews. The official press agency, PAP, said that as of Sept. 1, 1969, applications by Jews to leave the country would be considered "in conformity" with a much stricter "standard procedure" than has been in effect heretofore.

The announcement have no reason for the move. But the press agency, publishing statistics for the first time, said that from July 1, 1967 until May 1, 1969, 5,264 "Polish citizens of Jewish nationality left Poland declaring their wish to emigrate to Israel for permanent stay." Unofficial estimates place the peak of Jewish emigration in 1968 when an estimated 3,000-3,500 Jews left the country in the wake of the official "anti-Zionist" campaign. Many considered the campaign, which stemmed from student riots in March 1968, to be a mask for the purge of Jews from high positions in the Government, the Communist Party, cultural and communications industries.

Emigration of Polish Jews to Israel was made relatively easy, though severe restrictions were placed on the amount of money and personal property they could take out of the country. Emigrants applied at the Dutch Embassy which has been handling Israeli affairs in Poland since the Warsaw regime broke diplomatic relations with Israel after the Six-Day War.

They received documents assuring their entry into Israel and travel costs to Vienna. As many as 2,000 Jews are believed to have left Poland during the first five months of this year. The remaining Jewish population is placed at about 15,000 compared to about 25,000 in Poland before the anti-Jewish purges. There were 3.5 million Jews in Poland before World War II.

Yesterday's announcement of stricter emigration procedures gave Polish Jews little more than two months to make up their minds and prepare to leave the country. Some observers suggested that the Warsaw authorities acted in response to Arab complaints that Polish Jews, many of them skilled workers and professionals, were strengthening Israel. But many of the emigrants do not go to Israel. Once in Vienna they may apply for visas to other countries. Some circles here said the clamp-down on Jewish emigration stemmed from the fear in high quarters that Poland would lose top scientists, engineers, professors and physicians, many of whom are Jews.

Emigrants are allowed to take the equivalent of five dollars per person out of Poland and some household items and automobiles if at least a year old. Silverware, jewelry, precious stones and valuable stamp collections may be taken out but are heavily taxed.

Rosensaft Voices Confidence That Court Will Forbid Exhumations At Bergen-Belsen

LONDON, June 11 (JTA) -- The last survivor to leave the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp after World War II said here today that he was confident an international court of arbitration would forbid France to exhume the mass graves there in order to remove the remains of 139 Frenchmen for reburial in France. Joseph Rosensaft, 58, now a New York businessman and chairman of the World Association of Bergen Belsen Federations, told JTA that the court of arbitration has not yet rendered its verdict, adding, "I understand the verdict will be pronounced soon. I am confident of the outcome and I hope that once the verdict is pronounced we shall have done away with this nightmare for good."

The International Court of Arbitration was established in Coblenz to adjudicate disputes between the World War II allies. It was assigned to the Bergen-Belsen case to decide whether a little known agreement between France and West Germany permitting the return to France of the remains of French victims of Nazism applies and whether it is possible to determine which remains are those of Frenchmen. France bases its case for exhumation on the agreement reached with the Bonn Government in 1954, but exhumation of the Bergen-Belsen graves is opposed by West German authorities. Mr. Rosensaft and his organization are in the forefront of world-wide efforts to prevent it.

Their chief argument, backed up by scientific authorities, is that it would be impossible, 25 years later, to distinguish the remains of Frenchmen from those of other victims buried in a common grave. The mass burials took place in April, 1945, after British forces liberated the camp. Quicklime and strong disinfectants were poured into the graves as a typhoid epidemic was raging at the time. According to scientists, even the bones would be disintegrated by now.

This testimony was presented to nine judges of the International Court of Arbitration who visited the Bergen-Belsen site, near Hanover, last month. They were met there by Mr. Rosensaft and several prominent German Jews opposed to exhumation; French representatives were also present. Mr. Rosensaft testified at the time that even when the remains were buried in 1945, it was impossible to tell who was who or who was male and who was female. The witnesses also testified that there were no individual graves. Single headstones mark mass burial plots. "Even a headstone doesn't mean that the person is buried right there--relatives put the markers up later," Rabbi Zvi Asaria of Hanover told the judges. The rabbi, a Bergen-Belsen survivor, said it had been his task to gather the bodies for burial.

About 50,000 prisoners, mostly Jews, were believed to have died at Bergen-Belsen between 1943 and 1945. Among them was Anne Frank, the Dutch girl whose diary of her family in hiding became an international classic. Mr. Rosensaft, born in Poland, is the sole survivor of a family of 61 killed by the Nazis. He was a prisoner at Auschwitz but was transferred to Bergen-Belsen shortly before its liberation. He elected to remain there for five years to help the survivors. He was married there and his son was born at the camp.

Republican National Committee Names Warren Adler As Jewish Affairs Consultant

WASHINGTON, June 11 (JTA) -- Rep. Rogers C. B. Morton, chairman of the Republican National Committee, today named Warren Adler, of Washington, D.C., to a newly created position as the committee's "special consultant on Jewish affairs."

Rep. Morton, Maryland Republican, disclosed in making the appointment that the GOP was launching a major effort to extend the party's interest in Jewish concerns. He said that "this is another step in increasing the Republican Party's involvement in the American mainstream through understanding of the specialized problems of America's minority groups."

Mr. Adler, 41, has a long record of involvement in Jewish causes. He served as national public relations director of the Jewish War Veterans and worked with other Jewish groups. During the 1968 Presidential campaign, Mr. Adler toured the country seeking Jewish support for the Nixon-Agnew ticket. The new special consultant is a native of New York City and a graduate of New York University. He is president of a leading Washington public relations firm, owner of a chain of radio stations, and has edited various newspapers.

Rep. Morton said that "in his new role, Mr. Adler will seek a strong Republican base in the American Jewish community, building on the results of the Nixon victory which showed a significant Jewish interest in the national GOP."

In April, the White House said that Max M. Fisher of Detroit would serve as an informal adviser and liaison link between President Nixon and U.S. Jewry. A leader of the United Jewish Appeal, United Israel Appeal and the American Jewish Committee, Mr. Fisher is also a prominent Republican who played an important role in the election campaign. He also serves as consultant to George W. Romney, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, on a recently-created Cabinet committee that will establish priority areas for national volunteer work.

Yissakhar Ben-Yaacov, Consul-General In Philadelphia, Named Envoy To Nigeria

PHILADELPHIA, June 11 (JTA) -- Yissakhar Ben-Yaacov, 46, Israel's consul general here for the past five years, will be his country's new Ambassador to Nigeria, based in Lagos. Mr. Ben-Yaacov, who was the dean of the consular corps here, will succeed Ram Nigrad.

Mr. Ben-Yaacov has been a member of the Foreign Ministry since the establishment of the State. He has served as consul in Cologne and vice-consul in Munich, West Germany, and prior to coming to Philadelphia, served as deputy director of the department for international cooperation in charge of Israel's technical assistance overseas operations. He will be given a farewell dinner by city and state leaders on Monday and will leave here in July. He will be succeeded by Moshe Yegar, who is on the consulate staff in Los Angeles.

Hebrew Union College's President Tells Why Young Jews Join Hippie Movement

LOS ANGELES, June 11 (JTA) -- Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of the Hebrew Union College of Cincinnati, says that many young Jewish people are in the hippie movement "because they are driven by questions they cannot answer about the state of the world." Dr. Glueck was here for California Hebrew Union College's commencement. Dr. Glueck noted that some 30 to 40 percent of the Peace Corps is Jewish and that the Corp's Jewish members were "motivated by this desire to help mankind." This same idealism, he said, was responsible for the increased enrollment in the rabbinical studies at the seminary. "There is no feeling among the faculties," he said, "that our students have come to escape the draft."

30 American Zionists, Community Leaders Leave On Israel Fact-Finding Tour

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) -- Thirty American Zionists and Jewish community leaders left for Israel this week to participate in the first seminar and tour under the auspices of the American Zionist Council. Rabbi Israel Miller, Council chairman, said the tour was intended to give community leaders first-hand information with which they could explain the problems and accomplishments of Israel to the Jewish public and the public-at-large. He said the project was "experimental" and, if successful, would be conducted in the future on a semi-annual basis.

During their two-week stay in Israel, the participants will meet with Premier Golda Meir, Deputy Premier Yigal Allon, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, Foreign Minister Abba Eban and other Israeli leaders. The seminar and tour were arranged in cooperation with the Jewish Agency's department of organization and information.

University Of Vienna Will Give Honorary Doctorate To Dr. Salo W. Baron

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) -- The University of Vienna will give an honorary doctorate for outstanding scholarship to Prof. Salo W. Baron, Jewish historian, the Austrian Institute announced here today. Born in Tarnow, Austria-Hungary, Mr. Baron was educated in Vienna. He was professor of Jewish History, Literature and Institutions at Columbia University for 30 years and is professor emeritus and director of its Center of Israel and Jewish Studies. He is the author of "A Social and Religious History of the Jews."

38 Arab Females Graduate From Training Program Sponsored By Pioneer Women

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) -- Thirty-eight young Arab girls and women participated in the first graduation ceremonies of a new training program sponsored by Pioneer Women, the Women's Labor Zionist Organization. The program, initiated and conducted by the Arab section of Pioneer Women with the aid of the Israel Labor Ministry and the Jerusalem Municipality, offers courses in tailoring, dressmaking and beautician skills.