

Knesset Opens Today

ISRAEL represented London by some men who have long been familiar with British life, and by others who are new to the country. An official belonging to the second group complained the other day that before his coming to England nobody had told him there was a social revolution going on. Living in Israel, he said, one only heard of Mr. Bevin's machinations, of dollar shortages, and of increasing dependence upon America. This official happens to be a Socialist, and since his arrival here he has had a close look at what the Labour Party is doing — not only in Whitehall but "on the village level." As a result, he has gained a better understanding of mid-twentieth century Britain, and a better opinion of the British Labour movement.

TEL AVIV, Sunday. — The Prime Minister, Mr. David Ben Gurion, will open the second session of the Knesset at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, with a speech on the Government's programme and bills to be presented during the coming session.

The Knesset has a big programme before it. With a long list of bills to be debated, it is not expected to have another major break until Passover next year, *The Palestine Post* learns.

Normally the Knesset sits on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, but it may also be necessary to have meetings on Thursdays. The various Governmental committees are expected to sit almost continuously.

Two more rooms have been built on the roof of the building to accommodate the committees, while a hut has been erected for extra office accommodation.

A small army of cleaners was busy today tidying up the Knesset in preparation for the opening session which will be attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps.

AUSTRIAN TRADE TALKS SUSPENDED

VIENNA, Sunday (PTA). — The trade talks between Israel and Austria were suspended for three weeks yesterday, following the departure of the Israeli delegate, Dr. I. Shamir, for Tel Aviv where he will consult with the Government.

When the talks were reopened on Friday, Israel proposed a trial arrangement to fix the volume of trade between the two countries at between \$5m. and \$8m. The Austrian Government has agreed in principle to accept payment from blocked Jewish accounts in Austria for Austrian exports to Israel. The extent of such transfers has not yet been agreed.

Blind Sisters See Again

HAIFA, Sunday. — Two little sisters, Hamama and Malka Cohen, aged 10 and 5 respectively, who have been blind since birth, today saw each other and the light of the sun for the first time.

The Cohen sisters arrived recently from a Middle East country, both filthy and appallingly undernourished, the elder, Hamama, mothering her helpless younger sister.

They were brought from a reception camp to the eye department of Haifa's Government Hospital where Dr. Isaac Michaelson diagnosed their case as curable and operated on their eyes four days ago. Today their bandages were removed and the children had their first look at the world which they have never seen before. The elder and maturer, Hamama, happily appreciates the miracle that is changing her life so much. Malka is wondering at the new sensation and keeps asking: "What is this and what is that?"

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Iran Minister's Assassin Sentenced to Death

TEHERAN, Sunday (AFP). — The murderer of Abdul Husein Hazhir, former Iran Prime Minister, was sentenced to death by a court martial today.

He denied that he had any accomplices but said he belonged to a group called the "Islam Fanatics." He refused to appeal the sentence.

The Court went into mourning for seven days, and it is reported that the Shah has decided to put off his trip to the U.S.

The funeral this morning was attended by 30,000 persons.

Egyptian Elections Slated for January

CAIRO, Sunday (AP). — At a Cabinet meeting in Cairo this morning, the Council of Ministers decided to dissolve the present Parliament. They also set the first week in January as the date for the new general elections.

Both these measures are expected to become effective by a royal decree later today or tomorrow.

The present Egyptian Cabinet under Hussein Sirry Pasha is composed of non-Party Ministers. It came into office on November 3, succeeding an all-Party Cabinet also headed by Sirry Pasha which resigned over differences over the forthcoming election.

Peace Seen Near In Middle East

WASHINGTON, Sunday. — (PTA). The chances of a peace settlement between Israel and the Arab States appear better now than ever before, the "New York Times" correspondent in Tel Aviv reports. The paper states that an extended tour of the Syrian and Lebanese frontiers with Israel revealed a lack of tension and many signs of impending peace.

Abdullah's recent utterances, the paper says, give rise to hopes that Trans-Jordan may be the first Arab country to sign a bi-lateral peace pact with Israel.

The King appears to be genuinely desirous of a settlement. The "New York Times" concludes with the assertion that the formation of the E.S.G. has greatly relieved the tension over the Arab refugee problem.

Two Misconceptions

This would not be tolerated under the State of Israel, Mr. Ben Gurion said.

The Prime Minister warned against two misconceptions:

(1) That with the rise of the State, the Zionist Movement and the Zionist funds became obsolete.

(2) That after the rise of the State the Zionist Movement would continue to function as though the State did not exist.

The Jewish population, Mr. Ben Gurion said, was reaching 1,000,000 mark. But he stressed that this was only 10 per cent of the Jewish people, and the ingathering of exiles remained the basic element of Zionism. The State of Israel must play the leading role in the ingathering of exiles, but could not do it alone.

He said active cooperation between the State and the Zionist movement was imperative.

Huge War Cost

The Prime Minister paid a warm tribute to the 30 years of work by the Palestine Foundation Fund, mentioning its role in land development, the drainage of swamps, irrigation, the establishment of farms, immigration, health and education, defence and security. It had laid the foundation for independence, he said, but it could not live on its past record.

The principal speaker at the evening session was the

Minister of Finance, Mr. E. Kaplan, who disclosed that the Palestine war had cost more than IL100,000,000. He said only 25 per cent of this sum had come from abroad. In World War II 50 per cent of Britain's war cost had been covered from abroad.

Mr. Kaplan also said that the proportion of adults in Israel who had served in the war was greater than that in other countries at war.

Between April and October, over 99 per cent of the security budget was covered from local sources, the Finance Minister further disclosed.

Discussing sources of funds, Mr. Kaplan said the idea of floating loans among Jews abroad had been given up this year, so as not to compete with the campaigns in the U.S. He also disclosed that one of the U.J.A. delegations which recently visited this country had suggested that immigration should be limited to a rate commensurate with the financial resources for absorption. But after touring the camps, they reversed their opinion.

Two Living Standards

Absorption cost IL1,000 per immigrant, the Minister said. He said in the first year of the State of Israel, between IL12m. and IL13m. had been spent for housing.

Mr. Kaplan was optimistic about recovery but thought the transition would take years. He expressed concern that two separate standards of living — one for the old settlers and one for the new — might develop.

Other speakers today were Mr. L. Eshkol, Mr. Y. Gruenbaum, Mr. M. Grossman, Mr. E. Dobkin and Mr. I. Werfel of the Jewish Agency Executive and Mr. I. Ritov of the Palestine Foundation Fund.

Dr. A. Barth presided at the afternoon session and Mr. Y. Sprinzak at the evening session.

ISRAEL GOODS MAY PASS SUEZ CANAL

HAIFA, Sunday. — Some goods from Australia which must cross the Suez Canal on their way to Israel will no longer be held up by the Egyptian authorities, according to a telegram from Melbourne received today by Mr. A. Rosenfeld, Haifa shipping agent, in reply to his inquiry, whether Australian ships will now deliver imports straight to Israel ports.

Portside agents of Australian shipping companies cabled their principals' confirmation that Egypt had raised her ban against ships carrying consumer goods to Israel.

investment was made, Mr. Ronen announced. That quota may include profits, interest and capital returns, and the distribution is left to the discretion of the investor. Transfers of foreign exchange for the payment of part of the salaries of experts from abroad would also be permitted, for a certain period provided it could be proved that the services of such experts were essential.

One Law

In practice, he said, the Government had been offering these facilities for some time past. "The bill for the encouragement of foreign investments is intended to concentrate into one law all regulations, but it is possible that this or that paragraph will be changed." It was clear, he added, that only enterprises benefiting the economic life of the country would be eligible for such financial facilities.

Tel Aviv Saved From Khamsin

TEL AVIV, Sunday. — While Jerusalem and Haifa experienced what the weather men termed a "most unusual khamsin" today, Tel Aviv was protected by a blanket of moist air a few hundred metres in height, and experienced an extraordinarily damp day.

The Israel Meteorological Service explained that Tel Aviv had been saved from the khamsin by the weakness of the easterly winds, which were pushed upwards by stronger and cooler damp air from the sea. In Jerusalem and Haifa the full force of the easterly winds was felt.

Gov't to Take Over Telecommunications

TEL AVIV, Sunday. — All telecommunication operations in the country most of which are at present in the hands of Cable and Wireless Ltd., will be taken over by the Government on December 31.

The Government will acquire the assets of Cable and Wireless in Israel, and the British company will relinquish its concessions granted by the Mandatory authorities.

Mr. Zvi Prihar, the Postmaster General, conducted the negotiations, on behalf of the Ministry of Communications.

The P.M.G. is leaving for the U.S. on Post Office business this week.

Details on Last Loan Instalment

TEL AVIV, Sunday. — Details received here from Israel Embassy in Washington concerning the Export-Import Bank's latest allocation of \$20m. out of the \$100m. loan, revealed today that the attitude of the Bank toward Israeli industry is generally "a positive one."

The Bank is mainly concerned with the development of exports or the reduction of production costs through rational industrial operations and the prosecution of the national austerity programme. It therefore granted a number of individual applications, including materials for the metal industry, the pharmaceutical and textile industries, and food imports.

The major part of the loan, allotted to industrial development has already been taken up. However, Israel's demands exceed by far the \$20m. grant. Many industrialists submitted their applications in such a way that the Bank did not consider them eligible for loans.

Thanks to the last loan allocations, about IL7m. will flow into Israel industry, mostly in the form of equipment, an official announcement said tonight, adding that this sum was vital to make Israel competitive in the world markets.

Mr. Malenkov is the Secretary General of the Russian Communist Party and rated second only to Mr. Molotov in the Soviet hierarchy. The meeting was attended by high Army, Party and Government functionaries.

The imperialists put their trust in military adventures," said Mr. Malenkov, because they are afraid of the peacetime competition of Socialism.

"But it is perfectly obvious that military adventures promise them nothing but catastrophe."

"The Soviet people are not afraid of peacetime competition with Capitalism."

Enumerating the satellite states Mr. Malenkov said that "never before in all its history has our country been surrounded by neighbours so friendly to our state."

Not Expansionist

"The Soviet state does not need expansion," he continued. "It does not need to seek a way out by war, as do Capitalist states."

M. Malenkov asserted that Soviet industry and agriculture were now producing at higher than pre-war levels. The first post-war five-year plan will be completed ahead of time, he predicted.

Mr. Malenkov said that Soviet foreign policy consisted of: collaboration with the other great powers, fulfilling the Potsdam agreement on Germany, agreement on outlawing atomic warfare, and trade with everyone.

If this programme realized, he said, it is only because "the imperialists — especially England — do not want it."

(U.P. AP)

E. Germany to Punish Inciting Race Hatred

BERLIN, Sunday. (PTA). — The dissemination of propaganda designed to incite race hatred is now considered a punishable offence East Germany. Article 6 of the Constitution of the new East German Republic states that persons convicted of certain crimes, including propagation of race hatred, are to be disenfranchised and debarred from taking any leading post in the political, economic and cultural spheres.

Nehru Sees Einstein

PRINCETON, New Jersey, Sunday (AP). — The Indian Premier, Pandit Nehru, chatted for two hours with Dr. Albert Einstein yesterday.

Nehru lunched with Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, atomic physicist.

Soviet Flag Over Supreme Court

Jerusalem residents rubbed their eyes yesterday when they saw three Soviet flags atop the Supreme Court Building.

Monks of the Pravoslav Russian Church, who hoisted the hammer and sickle in celebration of the Russian Revolution, asserted that the building was theirs and only rented to the State.

The Foreign Ministry has approached the U.S.-S.R. Legation in Tel Aviv on the matter.

GOOD WISHES TO U.S.S.R.

The Prime Minister, Mr. David Ben Gurion, has sent a cable of good wishes to Generalissimo Stalin on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Republic.

"The Jewish people," he said, "which is building its State afresh in its historic homeland will not forget Soviet Russia's courageous fight against the Nazi enemy and its faithful help in the establishment of the State of Israel."

Compared with this broad issue, the quarrel about the dismantling of German plants is a sideshow. If dismantling is dropped, the Foreign Ministers will probably adopt the British view that reparations should end altogether, rather than Mr. McCloy's reported suggestion that Germany should pay reparations from current production. The latter solution would represent an imitation of Soviet policy, which the Western Powers have always condemned.

Next Week Critical

There is, however, a possibility that the Germans may voluntarily offer to continue reparations payments, in exchange for the termination of dismantling, in which case the difficulty might be circumvented.

Altogether, next week promises to be critical. Anglo-French relations have never been worse, with both France and Britain competing for American support for their respective solutions of German problem, while Germans carry their own quiet intrigues.

SERIOUS FIRES IN NORTHERN AREAS

HAIFA, Sunday. — Fires that caused serious damage broke out in various places in the north today and kept the Haifa Brigade at work all day long.

A huge blaze has raged at Kibbutz Daphne since 11 this morning consuming barns and store-sheds with all the straw, hay, fodder, and supplies they contained. The flames spread from east of the settlement westward toward the willows on the River Dan before the farmers noticed them. They had almost reached the cowsheds and chicken runs when neighbouring settlements rushed their firefighting equipment to help in checking the fire.

An urgent call for help to the Fire Brigade at Afula was answered by the police there which said that the Brigade was being liquidated and the fire engine was out of commission. The damage is believed to run into thousands of pounds.

A Haifa engine was in action at Zichron Yaakov where a brush fire threatened the wine presses and vineyards. More brush went up in smoke at Kiryat Motzkin near the Amidar housing, firemen struggling all day to contain the blaze. While all Haifa fire engines were out, another alarm came from a Beduin camp three kilometres north of Acre. When the Nahariya Fire Brigade, which is nearer, was asked to give a hand, they replied they were only a local Brigade and could do no help.

Argentina Resumes Some Imports

BUENOS AIRES, Sunday. — (AP). — Argentina announced today that she was opening her gates to some imports on November 11 after the 56-day ban resulting from Britain's pound devaluation. British exporters who have been complaining because Argentina would not buy under the trade agreement effective last July 1 are expected to get a big slice of the new business.

BELGIAN SOCIALISTS TO FIGHT KING'S RETURN

BRUSSELS, Sunday (UP). — The Belgian Socialist party will "fight with all its might" against the return of King Leopold to the throne. A resolution to this effect was unanimously adopted at the Party's annual congress yesterday. The resolution pledged the Socialists' support to all parties, including the Communists, who aid in the fight against the King's return.

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