

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Latest Cable Dispatches

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COLONISTS MOBILIZED FOR SELF-DEFENCE AS REVOLT SWEEPS PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, May 26. (JTA) -- The Government today for the first time mobilized Jewish colonists for self-defence and was momentarily expected to proclaim martial law as open Arab revolt swept the country, accompanied by bombings, arson and attacks on Jewish settlements.

Settlers at Rehoboth were armed and prepared to repel further assaults after two days' marauding resulted in destruction of agricultural enterprises.

War planes sought Arab hideouts in the hills as brigands in Nablus, Tulkarem and Jenin retreated to the hills bearing Arabs wounded in clashes with police and military forces. Army tanks and machine gun nests occupied Nablus and Gaza as these trouble centers were brought under full military control.

Many Arab policemen were reported resigning rather than fire on rioters. A British officer was reported to have shot dead two Arab policemen, one who refused to fire on rioters and another who refused to search an Arab's house for arms.

With Arab police regarded as unreliable, newly-organized Jewish police forces were rushed to Tulkarem. (Palestine police comprise 1,800 Arabs, 800 Britons and 400 Jews, besides the new forces.)

Panicked Jews fled from the Nevei Shalom section on the Jaffa border to Tel Aviv to Tel Aviv when nine bombs were thrown at the border and a large Jewish timber-yard set afire. The situation was tense in Jaffa, Tiberias and Safed where many bombs were thrown at troops from mosques and rooftops.

Consulate Evaluates American Property

The United States consulate was quietly trying to establish the value of American property in Palestine. At the American colony of Raanana, Arabs attempted to cut waterpipes of citrus groves and threw bombs into wells to prevent watering of groves.

Police made no effort to repel Arabs who invaded Jewish settlements in the Sharon plain until military reinforcements arrived. Arabs were driven from Jewish fields near Mount Tabor after a clash with police patrols. A communique said police escaped unscathed but expressed the belief the Arabs had suffered some casualties.

A fleet of 110 privately owned trucks was hired by the Government to transport troops as contracts were withdrawn from Arab bus concerns and awarded to a Jewish firm.

Arab constructionism hampered troop movements. Telephone wires to Cairo, cut Sunday, and railroad tracks torn up were restored today. Communications to England and other places had also been damaged. Arabs demolished poles supporting electric wires of the Rutenberg electric works all over the country, particularly at Hedera.

Collective Punishment Imposed on Beisan

Collective punishment was imposed on the Arab town of Beisan for a fire set in the Jezreel Valley. Other fires were started at Rehoboth and Beth Veigan.

A Jewish public works foreman stabbed by Arabs at Acre last night -- identified today as Elimelech Berkovitch, 50 years old -- was not expected to live.

An official communique said shooting occurred on the outskirts of Haifa and at the Beth Alpha colony. An Arab gang was reported to have fired a volley into Beth Alpha from a hillside and troops returned the fire.

Arabs in Jaffa exchanged shots with police, the communique said. Military forces occupied and closed an Arab sports club at Nablus. A Palestinian constable was wounded at Kakun near Tulkarem. Shots were fired at police at Galilee, Nablus, Jenin and nearby places.

Curfew was proclaimed at Gaza and Safed, the scenes of serious outbreaks.

A delegation of Jewish farmers visited High Commissioner Sir Arthur Grenfell Wauchope asking permission to organize self-defense units to protect citrus groves from destruction by Arabs.

Curfew was partially lifted in Jerusalem's Jewish sections to permit Jews to attend Shabuoth services tonight by delaying the curfew

hour from seven to 8:15 p.m. Jews were forbidden, however, to hold services at the Wailing Wall where incidents in 1929 led to massacres.

The Jewish Agency for Palestine was reported to have appealed to Emir Abdullah, Arab ruler of Transjordan, to influence the Palestine Arabs to halt the disturbances. Emir was said to have replied that he had long ago advised the Arabs to accept the High Commissioner's offer to send an Arab delegation to London.

A funeral was held quietly last night after curfew hour for Jacob Razili, 36, a Jewish laborer found murdered yesterday near the Hebrew University -- the twenty-seventh Jewish victim since April 19, with all the slayers still at large.

DISORDERS POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, WEIZMANN SAYS IN LONDON

LONDON, May 26. (JTA) -- "The Arabs have demonstrated their intention to push the Jews into the Mediterranean, but I don't think they'll succeed," Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, declared today at a meeting of the Central Asian Society here.

The Palestine disorders, Dr. Weizmann said, are political and economic in derivation.

Referring to Jewish immigration, the world Zionist leader declared there is room for 100,000 Arab families and between fifty and sixty thousand Jewish families on irrigatable land available today. He said Zionist policy is based on the principle that Arabs and Jews can live side by side for the common good.

Absorptivity of the Holy Land was declared by Dr. Weizmann to be determined by the intensity of the will to develop it.

"Arabs have demonstrated their intention to push Jews into the Mediterranean," he said, "but I don't think they'll succeed. It's tragic when one is engaged in a huge constructive task that attention should have to be devoted to preventing arson, banditry and destruction. Still, the Jew, in the knowledge of what's happening to him in other countries, knows that what is happening in Palestine is to a purpose from which nothing can make him desist."

MACDONALD EXPLAINS STATUS OF ROYAL COMMISSION

LONDON, May 26. (JTA) -- The projected Royal Commission to inquire into Palestine disorders has been decided upon by the Government, rather than proposed, the House of Commons was told today by Dominions Secretary Malcolm MacDonald for the Colonial Office.

He said that since it was the case of a decision, and not an offer, the question of Arab acceptance did not arise. Jewish and Arab leaders have expressed opposition to the inquiry.

Replying to a question on the floor, Mr. McDonald disclosed the Government's decision to send a commission to Palestine after order had been restored was communicated to the Arabs on May 14 by High Commissioner Wauchope and to Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, by J.H. Thomas, former Colonial Secretary, on May 18.

He added that it was not yet possible to make a statement about the commission's personnel.

In a written reply to a question on the Arab Supreme Committee and its use of violence to enforce the general strike against the Jews, Mr. MacDonald said he understood that the committee represented the principal Arab political party and was so regarded by the Palestine Government.

"My information is," he stated, "that the committee has hitherto endeavored to restrain the more extreme elements of the public and has discountenanced violent measures." He added that he had no information on Arabs killed and wounded for refusing to obey the committee's orders.

TEL AVIV HARBOR STOCK GOES ON SALE THURSDAY

TEL AVIV, May 26. (JTA) -- Shares of the Tel Aviv Harbor Development Company, recently formed to develop this all-Jewish city as a seaport to make it independent of neighboring Arab Jaffa, will be placed on sale Thursday, it was announced today.

Subscription lists in Palestine will close June 2. Whatever shares remain will be placed on sale abroad. Fifty percent of the stock has been secured by the Jewish Agency for Palestine together with the municipality of Tel Aviv. Total capitalization is \$750,000.

WILL NOT BE SWAYED BY VIOLENCE, WAUCHOPE DECLARES

TEL AVIV, May 26. (JTA) -- Sir Arthur Grenfell Wauchope, British High Commissioner for Palestine, declared in a broadcast address last night that no acts of violence nor the Arab general strike would deflect the government one jot from its determination to discharge fully its obligations under the League of Nations mandate.

He spoke on the occasion of the celebration of Empire Day at the Levant Fair. The international exhibition, which opened April 29, is scheduled to close next Friday.

LORD SNELL URGES FIRM STAND ON PALESTINE

LONDON, May 26. (JTA) -- Lord Snell demanded in a radio broadcast last night that the Palestine Government make clear that Jewish immigration would be continued.

Speaking of the Arab disorders, he declared the duty of the Government was, firstly, to restore and maintain order, and secondly, to issue a statement making clear that the terms of the League of Nations mandate for Palestine would be maintained.

He said that great benefits had resulted to the Arabs directly from the mandate and indirectly from the upbuilding work of the Jews. He suggested that the Jews issue a statement pointing out that they do not aim to subordinate the Arabs in Palestine.

BEN-GURION FLIES TO LONDON

JERUSALEM, May 26. (JTA) -- David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the Palestine executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, left last night for London by airplane in connection with recent Arab disorders.

AUSTRIA NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA REFUGEE PARLEY

VIENNA, May 26. (JTA) -- The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was officially informed today that the Austrian Government does not intend to participate in the intergovernmental conference on German refugees, scheduled to open July 2 at Geneva. The conference, called by Sir Neill Malcolm, League of Nations High Commissioner for German Refugees, will be asked to set up a system of legal protection for refugees and adopt other measures to alleviate their plight.

The reason ascribed for Austria's abstention from the conference is that questions on the legal status of the refugees do not affect Austrian interests, owing to the small number of German refugees in Austria.

It was emphasized, however, that the Government is anxious to treat German refugees in accordance with the principles of humanity and will follow the deliberations of the conference with interest.

VIENNA PAPER CHARGES JEWS KILLED CATHOLIC IN JERUSALEM

VIENNA, May 26. (JTA) -- The Catholic semi-official Reichspost today declares that Jews were responsible for the murder in Jerusalem on May 18 of Karl Breitinger, Austrian Catholic. The paper charges Jews killed him thinking he was an Arab.

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Breitinger was killed by Arabs, all other sources reported, who mistook him for a Jew.

LITHUANIA NAMES 2 JEWS TO PARLIAMENT

KAUNAS, Lithuania, May 26. (JTA) -- The Government today nominated two Jews as members of Parliament. They are the editor, Rubinstein, and the war veteran, Goldberg.

The nominations confirmed the statement of Julius Caplikas, Minister of Interior, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in which he disclaimed anti-Semitic aims on the part of the Government and said the Jews would receive at least two of the fifty seats in Parliament.

MAJOR PROCTOR BLAMES EFFENDI AND LANDLORDS FOR PALESTINE STRIFE

NEW YORK, May 26. (JTA) -- Asserting that the present disturbances in Palestine represent "a clash of two civilizations, the newer and the older in which the older must surrender to the newer," Major Henry A. Procter, Conservative member of the House of Commons, said upon his arrival today on the Berengaria, that the political agitation in Palestine does not come from the masses but from the effendi and rich absentee landowners who are aroused over the raising of the standard of living and wages by the Jewish settlers.

Asked whether he believed that Italy was active in arousing anti-British feeling, Major Procter said that it was "highly probable that the propaganda that stirred up the trouble in Egypt is the same which has created the disturbances in Palestine."

He was met at the pier by Morris Rothenberg, president of the Zionist Organization of America. Major Procter will lecture in behalf of the United Palestine Appeal and will be tendered a luncheon by the Zionist Organization at the Hotel Astor June 3.

"The Arab is the most inflammatory material in the world and the wildest rumor will set him off on a murderous expedition of wild massacre and impassioned hatred," Major Procter said, adding that the present situation in Palestine was particularly delicate because "the slightest disturbance in Palestine is felt in India and it is therefore a question of patience in dealing with the situation."

Major Procter said it was the general feeling in the House of Commons that "we're determined to carry out Great Britain's promise to world Jewry to make Palestine a national home for the Jews and no lawlessness or riots will influence the government to swerve from that course. The firmest steps will be taken by the British Government to stamp out lawlessness."

He said that the protests in the House of Commons against Italian propaganda were not a result of fear, declaring Great Britain was not afraid of Italy and never has been. "It is a new experience, something like a Jersey mosquito. It is very irritating but you are not afraid of it," he said.

"I look for a true voice against persecution from Palestine. I have long felt that the way to put a stop to a great deal of the persecution of the Jews by dictators is to give them a country like Switzerland, that would be not only a source of Jewish culture but that would enable world Jewry to speak in the name of peace to the nations of the world, like Switzerland. Such a center would act as an asylum for the oppressed and as a voice on behalf of Jewry," he stated.