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START BUILDING OF AIR-RAID SHELTERS IN JERUSALEM; PALESTINE JEWS RALLIED TO DEFENSE

JERUSALEM, May 14 (JTA) -- Measures for security against air raids in the holy city of Jerusalem were started for the first time today.

Construction of shelters for 12,000 persons was launched. Shelters for 4,000 persons will be located on the main streets and for another 3,000 in market places. The District Commissioner ordered that window glass be protected against breakage, especially in public places.

It is generally believed that Jerusalem, sacred to three faiths, will be spared in any attack on Palestine, but the authorities are taking no chances.

A meeting of the Vaad Leumi (Jewish National Council), with representatives of local councils attending, heard appeals to await the days of possible danger and meet them in a way befitting a Jewish community which would remain in the country and hold its positions under all circumstances.

Isaac Ben-Zvi, chairman of the council, and Moshe Shertok, head of the Jewish Agency's political department, called for an increase in military volunteering, strengthening of inner discipline, maintenance of calm and combating of rumors. Both speakers stressed the Jewish community's desire to assist in defense of Palestine, to lend its shoulder to the British war effort and aid in internal defense.

Palestine volunteers in the Royal Air Force proved to be of "exceptional value" in operations in the western desert, according to a statement by the RAF press officer, reported here today. The volunteers justly acquired the reputation of being hard and willing workers, he said, and even under the most difficult conditions they were found to be rendering splendid service in all desert stations of the RAF.

The volunteers came mostly from Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jaffa, the press officer said. A "Jewish padre" often visits outlying desert stations to make contact with Palestinians of the Jewish faith, he added.

Meanwhile, a young Jewish air craftsman returned to Jerusalem on a brief leave reported that many Palestinians had been in Greece, serving with the RAF, Royal Engineers, Service Corps and Pioneer Corps. He declared several hundred Palestinians were

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among the last RAF men who left Greece after successfully covering the retreat and engaging in the final fighting during the days of evacuation.

He praised the Palestinians in the Pioneer Corps who, harassed by bombings and frequently machine-gunned, carried out all their duties and escaped without casualties.

Washington Officials Hear Demand For Arming of Jews

WASHINGTON, May 14. (JTA) -- Unless Britain's traditional policies in Palestine are abandoned and the Jews are adequately armed there is a possibility of events of the gravest character in the Holy Land that will shock the world, United States Government leaders were told today by Dr. Stephen S. Wise and Emanuel Neuman, representing the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs.

Outlining Palestine's critical position and the danger that the country may be overrun, the Zionist leaders urged that immediate steps be taken to arm the Jewish population. It was said four Jewish divisions could be formed on the basis of available manpower.

Palestine Jewish leaders, it was said, have informed the British authorities that they will be responsible in history if the population is left defenseless and have pressed minimum demands which include (1) abandonment of "parity" between Arab and Jewish enlistments in field regiments and (2) full utilization for defense of local facilities for production of war materials.

The Zionist leaders revealed to Washington officials the contents of confidential information from Palestine which stressed the possibility that with the Iraq Government in the arms of the Nazis, Syria reportedly opened by the French and Turkey wavering, the road of the Germans to Palestine and through Palestine to Suez might be thrown wide open.

Intrigues of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem have had repercussions in Palestine, although outwardly everything remains calm, it was stated. It is the hope of the Axis to cause a general Arab uprising in the Holy Land. Palestine leaders regard the events in Iraq as marking the complete bankruptcy of the British policy of appeasing the Arabs, it was said.

It was pointed out that the British, in deference to public opinion in America and other democratic nations, had made some concessions towards allowing Jews to participate more actively in Palestine's defense, but the steps were being taken slowly and reluctantly and were inadequate. Under present policy one Arab must be placed in uniform for every Jew. The British have been careful to infiltrate Jewish recruits into existing battalions so that in no unit would there be a Jewish majority.

PIONEER WOMEN SEND \$15,000 TO PALESTINE

NEW YORK, May 14. (JTA) -- The Pioneer Women's Organization has cabled \$15,000 to Palestine for the expansion of children's services, it was announced today. In response to cables from the Working Women's Council in Palestine, the national office issued a call to its clubs throughout the United States and Canada for additional funds.

5 TO BE COURT-MARTIALLED IN DUNERA AFFAIR; URGE SPEEDING OF REFUGEE DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS

LONDON, May 14. (JTA) -- War Secretary David Margesson announced in Commons yesterday that as a result of an inquiry into the conduct of military personnel aboard the S. S. Dunera while conveying Jewish internees to Australia, the commanding officer, regimental sergeant-major and a sergeant will be court-martialed. It was charged that the internees had been mistreated and robbed during the voyage.

Complaints were voiced about the slowness in appointment of friendly alien physicians. Miss Horsbrugh, Parliamentary Secretary of the Health Ministry, admitted that only 126 had been employed and 98 more checked and awaiting employment, but said that the pace of checking had been increased to 100 weekly.

Sir Henry Morris Jones complained that appointments were seriously delayed by the Home Office's aliens department. Dr. Hill, member for Cambridge University, refuted the assertion that German Jews could not be used because people were prejudiced against them. He pointed out that a Jew sent to South Wales had gained the love of the coal miners. "The people raising these objections are often disguising their own prejudices," he said. "The ordinary people of this country reckon a man by his human qualities."

SCHWARTZBART DEMANDS BROADCAST OF EQUALITY DECLARATION TO POLAND

LONDON, May 14. (JTA) -- Ignacy Schwartzbart, Jewish member of Polish National Council, revealed at a press conference today that he had refused to participate in a broadcast to Poland until the exiled Polish Government itself broadcast the spirit of its December declaration of Jewish equality. "I shall not do anything injurious to the future of the Jews in Poland and I shall not submit to any wrong actions of the Government," Schwartzbart said.

At this morning's session of the Council, Labor Minister Jan Stanczyk, on behalf of the Polish Government, thanked the Joint Distribution Committee for its aid to Polish refugees in Japan without distinction of race or creed.

ROSENHEIM COMING HERE, SEEKING TO AID JEWISH UNITY

LONDON, May 14. (JTA) -- A farewell meeting was held today for Dr. Jacob Rosenheim, president of the Agudath Israel, who is leaving for the United States. Dr. Rosenheim said he hoped the Agudah could make a valuable contribution towards establishment of a united Jewish front and added that he would seek establishment in America of an organization able to speak in the name of the whole Jewish people and believing in the fundamental traditions of Judaism.

Prof. Selig Brodetsky expressed the hope that his visit would help to bring unity in American Jewry at a time when disaster was overtaking millions of their coreligionists. Other speakers were Chief Rabbi J. H. Hertz, H. A. Goodman and Commander Oliver Locker-Lempson.

LONDON JEWISH PAPER SUSPENDS TEMPORARILY

LONDON, May 14. (JTA) -- The Jewish Times, local Yiddish weekly, is not appearing temporarily. Its offices were hit in a recent air-raid.

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HERZOG VOICES FAITH IN ULTIMATE TRIUMPH OF JUSTICE

NEW YORK, May 14. (JTA) -- Faith in the ultimate triumph of justice was voiced last night by Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog of Palestine, addressing a dinner in the Hotel Astor under the auspices of the Jewish National Fund. He was presented with a scroll of tribute by Rabbi Max Kirshblum, executive secretary of Mizrahi. Dr. Israel Goldstein, JNF president, also spoke.

"Precisely at this critical moment when the fate of Palestine seems to be hanging in the balance, when the Jewish settlement in the Holy Land is so gravely menaced by the arch-enemy, American Jewry ought to prove that age-old faith by a maximum contribution towards the fund whose function it is to redeem the sacred soil for the Jewish people," he said.

Dr. Herzog will speak tomorrow night at the opening session of the 24th annual convention of the Mizrahi Organization of America in Atlantic City. Following his address he will leave for Chicago, after which he will depart for Palestine.

ANGELL CALLS ON WORLD TO DEFEND JEWS' RIGHTS

NEW YORK, May 14. (JTA) -- "When Christendom has learned to defend the rights of the Jews it will have learned to defend its own rights," Sir Norman Angell, British economist and Nobel Peace prize winner, declared today at the annual donor luncheon of Women's American ORT, attended by 1,500 persons at the Astor Hotel.

"When we have learned that we can only defend ourselves if we are prepared to defend others, then men will have both security and peace, and not before," he said.

Brief talks outlining the work of the Women's ORT in furthering the ORT rehabilitation program of industrial and agricultural training for the refugees and other Jews of Argentina and eight European countries were given by Mrs. Leon Harris, luncheon chairman, and Mrs. Edward B. Gresser, president. Other speakers were Lady Marley, Dr. Waldo E. Stephens, Professor of International Law at Columbia University; former Judge Dorothy Kenyon of New York, Dr. David Lvovitch, vice-president of the World ORT Union, and George Frankenthaler, chairman of the Greater New York campaign of ORT.

PRAYERS FOR DEMOCRATIC VICTORY PLANNED

NEW YORK, May 14. (JTA) -- The Interfaith Committee for Aid to the Democracies announced today it had issued a call to all churches, synagogues and other religious bodies throughout the country to hold prayers on May 30, 31 and June 1 for "a peace based upon the triumph of justice and righteousness" and the victory of the forces of democracy.

Resistance to Hitler invasion is the common task of the English and American people, Dr. Stephen S. Wise declared today, speaking over the "Friendship Bridge" radio program sponsored by the British American Ambulance Corps, which is heard locally over WMCA and is relayed by shortwave to England over station WRUL, Boston.