

# JTA

## DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY  
106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

VOL. IX. NO. 127

Friday, June 5, 1942

### GENERAL MOBILIZATION OF JEWS IN PALESTINE PLANNED; AMERICAN JEWS RECRUITED

JERUSALEM, June 4. (JTA)-- Preparations were concluded here today for a general mobilization of all able-bodied Jews in Palestine, regardless of age and sex, to be assigned either to military, civilian defense, or agricultural work.

At the same time American citizens here were informed that they can enlist for active service in the British forces without taking an oath of allegiance to the King. A number of American Jews reported to the recruiting offices as soon as this information was made public.

The call for the general mobilization of the Palestine Jews will be published in the next few days, it was stated. It will be issued under the signatures of the executive of the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Council of Palestine. A central recruiting committee headed by three Jewish experts will direct the recruits to the kind of work for which they are best fitted.

An attack in the eastern Mediterranean must be considered possible, British official circles here believe. "Its direction is likely to be from the Dodecanese and Crete against Cyprus, Syria and Palestine," a British official said today. Such an operation, he pointed out, would have to be made by sea and air, and though the British have considerable naval strength in the eastern Mediterranean, an advance by hops from port to port and from airbase to airbase might be possible if well covered by air strength.

### American Military Units Would Be Most Welcome, British Commander Says

Parallel with preparations taken in Palestine to hold off any German drive, preparations are also being made in Syria. The last few months have been used by Gen. Wilson's army to improve communications between Syria and Palestine, to combat fifth-column activities, to prepare defenses and to train troops. British military experts declare that Palestine and Syria are excellent places to complete training.

Gen. Wilson, who commands the 9th Army and has his headquarters in one of the mountain towns in Lebanon, when asked whether he hoped that American troops would join his army, said that if they did come they would be most welcome. Such a visible sign of Allied cooperation would be valuable, he declared. The only Americans in uniform in Syria today are the members of the American Field Service Volunteers who drive ambulances, and even they are anxious to proceed with their ambulances to the Libyan front since there are no wounded in Syria.

Information reaching here from Cyprus indicates that the British military authorities there have bolstered the island base to block any possible Nazi sea and air route to Palestine and Syria over the Mediterranean. Enemy invasion of Palestine and Syria by sea or air is an almost impossible operation so long as the British hold Cyprus and Turkey remains neutral.

AMERICAN JEWS IN PALESTINE ASK U.S. GOVERNMENT TO ENABLE THEM TO RETAIN CITIZENSHIP

TEL AVIV, June 4. (JTA)-- The American Citizens Association here, which represents more than 5,000 Jews who are naturalized Americans, today decided to appeal to the State Department in Washington for one year's extension of the time allowed them to remain in Palestine without forfeiting their U.S. citizenship.

The appeal became necessary in view of the fact that the one-year extension given last October to naturalized American citizens under the Nationality Act of 1940, expires on October 14 of this year, while war conditions make it practically impossible for most of the American Jews in Palestine to reach the United States by then.

Naturalized American Jews in Palestine were in danger of losing their citizenship under the Nationality Act of 1940 since the majority of them have been living in Palestine for more than the two years provided by the Act for countries where one can become a citizen after two years' continuous residence. Facing this danger, and lacking transportation facilities to return to the United States, more than 1,000 of them, who are heads of families, last summer signed a petition urging Congress to postpone putting the Nationality Act into effect until after the war. Congress, acting on this petition, passed a bill permitting American naturalized citizens to remain abroad under the Nationality Act until October 14, 1942 only.

It was stated at the American Consulate today that about 8,000 Americans, most of them Jews, were in Palestine in 1940 when Italy declared war against Britain. At that time two-thirds of the American Jews in Palestine were naturalized citizens and one-third were native-born. When the United States proclaimed the Mediterranean "a belligerent zone" barred to American shipping, it became extremely difficult for naturalized Jews in Palestine to return home. Among those who signed the petition to Congress last year were Miss Henrietta Szold, Dr. J.L. Magnes, and other prominent American Jews residing in Palestine.

JEWISH CENTERS MUST SERVE ARMED FORCES AND BOLSTER CIVILIAN MORALE, WELFARE PARLEY TOLD

ROCHESTER, June 4. (JTA)-- The responsibilities of Jewish centers and "Y's" to serve the armed forces, bolster civilian morale and prepare for the coming peace was stressed tonight at the annual dinner of the National Association of Jewish Center Workers, which opened a six-day convention here today. Speakers at the dinner included Edward C. Lindeman of the New York School for Social Work and Herman Jacobs, president of the Association. Meyer E. Fichman, president of the Jewish Welfare Board, presided.

"A spiritual victory is to be won in war as well as a military victory," Prof. Lindeman stated. "Through the common effort now being put forth by the American people we are on the way to a kinship and understanding unsurpassed in American history. This must be developed and strengthened. Otherwise the war may be lost, even if we win it in a military sense."

Mr. Jacobs emphasized the need to carry on normal requirements and cultural facilities of "Y's" and centers, in addition to developing special programs to meet war needs. "No matter what additional burdens we may be obliged to carry," he said, "a special obligation devolves upon group workers in an emergency period to ease tension, relieve pain and grief, and infuse courage in a constituency which, thus fortified and assured, is enabled to function as loyal citizens."

AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS URGED BY ARGENTINE LEADERS TO RECONSTITUTE JEWISH AGENCY

BUENOS AIRES, June 4. (JTA)-- The "immediate reconstitution of the Jewish Agency for Palestine" is demanded in a message cabled today by a number of prominent Jewish leaders in Argentina to twelve Jewish organizations in the United States. The B'nai B'rith in America is urged in the cable "to take the initiative" to bring about such a reconstruction.

The message, which is signed by Argentine members of the Jewish Agency and of the B'nai B'rith, insists that the Jewish Agency must be reconstructed so as to include all representative Jewish bodies "in order to approach the American and other Allied governments in a single united front for the recognition of the Jewish nation as an ally with the United Nations and for the establishment of a Jewish fighting force formed by Palestinian and stateless Jews with the help of lend-lease funds."

The message was sent to the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, the B'nai B'rith, the Zionist Organization of America, the Poale Zion-Zeire Zion, the Mizrahi, the Revisionists, the Hadassah, the Joint Distribution Committee, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and the Agudas Israel.

PEACE CONFERENCE MUST SOLVE "JEWISH PROBLEM IN EUROPE" POLISH COUNCIL ASSERTS

LONDON, June 4. (JTA)-- A resolution introduced by Sofia Zaleska, member of the anti-Semitic Endek party in the Polish National Council, urging that the forthcoming peace conference should "solve the Jewish problem in Europe" by securing for them a state of their own, was adopted here last night by the Council by a vote of 17 to 2. Five members of the Council abstained from voting.

The resolution was strongly opposed by Samuel Zygelbaum, the Jewish Socialist member of the Council. He pointed out that the Jews must be considered not a "problem" but an integral part of the population in the countries where they live. This, he said, is especially true with regard to the Jews in Poland, who have been residing there for generations.

In her resolution, Mrs. Zaleska emphasized that the Jews "as a nation without a soil" must be provided with conditions which will allow their normal development within the framework of a state with their own national government. "The Jewish nation, which has proved its extraordinary vitality during the last two thousand years since the collapse of its historic state, should not be deprived of its own state and territory," the resolution stated.

PALESTINE JEWS WELCOME AMERICAN STUDY OF ARAB-JEWISH RELATIONS

JERUSALEM, June 4. (JTA)-- Jews in Palestine welcomed the announcement made here today by Dr. J.L. Magnes that a committee to study Arab-Jewish relations has been formed in America by the Hadassah under the guidance of Mrs. Edward Jacobs, one of the Hadassah leaders and the only woman member in the executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

Dr. Magnes made his announcement in the course of an address which he delivered at an Emergency Conference of the Hadassah committee in Palestine. He reported that the Hadassah has opened health centers for Arabs in Tiberias and in Zemar, and that a joint Arab-Jewish health center will soon be established by the Hadassah in the Hulsh district to serve the entire population in the vicinity. The Hadassah will also open a girls' secondary professional school for 300 to 400 pupils, as the beginning of a contemplated network of professional schools for girls in Palestine, Dr. Magnes stated.

2,000 VETERANS OF PALESTINE JEWISH LEGION CELEBRATE 25th ANNIVERSARY IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA)-- "The rehabilitation of the Jewish people and the restoration of the Jewish homeland in Palestine must be made one of the peace aims of the United Nations," Lt. Governor Charles E. Poletti declared tonight, speaking to an audience of more than 2,000 veterans of the Palestine Jewish Legion who assembled in Town Hall on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its formation.

"If the Jewish people were by-passed in the plans for the post-war world, it would represent a disastrous admission of bankruptcy on the part of the free world," Mr. Poletti said. The meeting was held under the combined auspices of the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs and the Palestine Jewish Legion.

David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, who had served with the Legion, said that the Legion was the first manifestation in modern times that Jews are willing and prepared to fight and, if necessary, to die for Palestine. Turning to the situation in the Near East today, Mr. Ben-Gurion said, "the Jewish Legion is now becoming the Jewish army in Palestine. The Jewish Agency was always anxious to assist the British war effort in any way it could. Over twelve thousand Jewish soldiers from Palestine fought in Libya, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Greece and Crete. There are still many thousands of Jews in Palestine anxious to fight as Jews against the persecutors of their people. They claim the right and are entitled to fight in a Jewish army and under a Jewish flag."

Elias Ginsburg, National Commander of the Jewish Legion, pointed out that five thousand young Jews, more than half of whom came from America and the balance from England and Palestine, saw active service on the Palestinian front and in the Egyptian desert during the last war. The Legion, he said, numbered about eleven thousand men. Other speakers who addressed the meeting included Frank E. Gannett, publisher, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Capt. Abraham Tulin and Major C.R. Redgrave.

FEDERATION OF REFORM SYNAGOGUES ORGANIZED IN NEW YORK AREA

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA)-- More than 100 lay and religious leaders representing 28 reform synagogues in the metropolitan area will gather next Thursday, June 11, at the first meeting of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues, which will be the agency of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in this district.

Formation of the Federation climaxes five years' effort on the part of the New York Advisory Committee of the UAHC, which is headed by Frederick F. Green. Each of the 28 synagogues will be represented in the federation by its rabbi, president and a lay delegate. Officers and an executive committee will be elected at the meeting.

The purpose of the new organization as outlined here today are: "To act as a representative body for Reform Judaism in all matters affecting religious, moral and communal life; to promote the aims of the respective congregations in their devotional and educational activities; and to further the aims, purposes and welfare of the UAHC."

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR PALESTINE SENDS \$20,000 TO COMPLETE GIRLS' SCHOOL IN JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA)-- The Women's League for Palestine yesterday voted to send a grant of \$20,000 to Palestine to complete payments on a girls' training and residence center which is to open in Jerusalem shortly, it was announced here today. The organization has already sent \$56,000 to Palestine this year.

The decision to send the additional funds was made at a luncheon meeting at the Hotel Riverside Plaza here at which annual reports were presented. Mrs. William Prince was re-elected for an eleventh term as president of the group.