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NEWISH VIGILANTE GROUP FORMED IN PALESTINE TO COMBAT TERRORISTS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22, (JTA) -- In a move to combat the wave of terror that flared up in Palestine this past week, a Jewish vigilante organization calling itself "Mishmar Hayishuv," which means "Yishuv's Guard," has been formed here.

The new group posted placards throughout Jerusalem today denouncing the terrorists and warning that it will not allow anything - "even civil war in the Yishuv" - to stop it, if the terrorists "do not cease their stupid crimes."

Meanwhile, the "Irgun Zvai Leumi," secret Jewish military organization, which was reported to have assumed responsibility for the terror, sent a letter to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency office here reiterating that it was responsible for the bombings of the Palestine Government immigration offices in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa, but denying that any of its members were involved in the assassination of two police officials in Haifa last week. The letter also denied that members of the Irgun had invaded the Hashomer Hazeir Club in Tel Aviv and wounded two youths.

The letter indicated, however, that further outbreaks could be expected. It declared that "the Irgun fights only the existing regime. The first act of that fight was the bombing of the immigration office. We proudly assume responsibility for it."

Palestine Police Ready "For All Eventualities," American Zionists Criticized

LONDON, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- A warning that the Palestine police force has been strengthened and "is ready for all eventualities," now and after the war, is voiced in the London Times today in a cable from its Jerusalem correspondent.

The warning, obviously inspired by Palestine authorities in connection with the bombings and shootings which occurred there last week, says that the period when the police were too weak to deal with terrorists, as during the Arab riots in 1936, has long passed. It admits that Jewish life and property were not adequately protected in 1936, but explains that "the British police force in Palestine in 1936 numbered less than ten percent of what it does now" and the number of British soldiers in Palestine was insignificant.

Meanwhile, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, went on record today opposing the terroristic acts which took place last week in Palestine. Through Prof. Selig Brodetsky, its president, the Board made known that it condemns the recent bombings and assassinations. It expressed the hope that these incidents would not affect the future of the country.

Chief Rabbi Hertz, addressing a pro-Palestine meeting, today criticized "some Zionists in the United States" who are attacking Britain. "I regret the note of wholesale condemnation recently indulged in by some Zionists in the United States toward the Mandatory power," he said.

IRA A. HIRSCHMANN APPOINTED WAR REFUGEE BOARD REPRESENTATIVE IN TURKEY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- Ira A. Hirschmann, who has been investigating refugee problems in the Near East, has been assigned as special attache to the United States Embassy at Ankara, it was announced today by John W. Pehle, acting executive director of the War Refugee Board. The announcement stated that Hirschmann is now the Board's special representative in Turkey.

Pehle's official announcement said: "Mr. Hirschmann arrived in Ankara Feb. 14, and is now engaged in the development of programs and the implementation of measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.

"Mr. Hirschmann has spent considerable time in Western and Central Europe. In 1938 he attended the Evian Conference as an observer for the United States Government. Later he went to Austria where with the cooperation of friends he arranged for several hundred refugees to leave the country."

JEWISH DELEGATION ASKS BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH WAR REFUGEE BOARD IN BRITAIN

LONDON, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- The possibility of Britain establishing a War Refugee Board, similar to that recently created by President Roosevelt, has been discussed with the Foreign Ministry, it was revealed here today. Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, disclosed that a Jewish delegation saw the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs with whom it discussed the matter.

A demand for the creation of a War Refugee Board by the British Government was also voiced here today by two parliamentarians, Eleanor Rathbone and Harold Nicolson. Addressing a press conference called by the National Committee for Rescue from Nazi Terror, they complained that Britain's efforts in behalf of refugees were lagging behind those of the United States and Canada. They urged not only the establishment of an agency similar to the War Refugee Board, but also the appointment of attaches for refugee work to the various British legations in neutral countries.

Prof. Brodetsky also reported that seven Jewish social workers have left for North Africa where they will join three who are en route from Palestine to form a unit of ten which will operate in areas where Jewish residents require relief. One British Jewish relief worker is already in North Africa.

CLOSER TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN PALESTINE AND EGYPT URGED BY EGYPTIAN FINANCE MINISTER

TEL AVIV, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- Closer trade relations between Palestine and Egypt were urged today by Egyptian Finance Minister Amin Osman, who arrived yesterday to participate in the trade talks now proceeding between the two countries. Addressing a luncheon here, Mr. Osman stressed the need for a wider opening of the doors between his country and Palestine.

Despite war-time demands and the diversion of some supplies to combat epidemic conditions in upper Egypt, the country will be able to export certain food items which are badly needed by Palestine, Mr. Osman disclosed. In return Egypt will receive Palestine manufactures which will help to ease the acute shortage of such goods. Meanwhile, it is reported here that negotiations are in progress for the shipment of thousands of cases of citrus fruits to Egypt and neighboring countries. One source estimates that 1,000,000 cases are involved.

LEHMAN LAUDS RUSSIA FOR JOINING INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES

NEW YORK, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- Herbert H. Lehman, Director General of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, today issued a statement lauding the decision of the Russian Government to join the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees.

The statement was made in connection with the announcement that an arrangement has been reached between the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and the Jewish press in Moscow, under which Jewish publications in Russia will, for the first time since the Soviet Revolution, receive JTA cables from the United States, Palestine and other countries, depicting Jewish life there. This is the first time that any publication in the U.S.S.R. has been permitted to receive cabled news directly from any foreign news agency.

Russia's decision to join the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees marks the country's entrance into the international effort to alleviate the plight of refugees during and after the war. At the time when the Intergovernmental Committee was established at the Evian Conference in 1938, the Soviet Union was not invited to participate. Since the outbreak of the war hundreds of thousands of Jews from Poland, Rumania and the Baltic countries have been given shelter in the U.S.S.R., and many of them were permitted to pass through Russia en route to the United States and to Palestine.

The arrangement under which Jewish Telegraphic Agency news will be cabled to Jewish publications in Russia is a result of the increased interest on the part of Jews in Russia in Jewish life and achievements in other countries. This interest was indicated several months ago when a Jewish cultural delegation was sent to the United States and England, composed of Prof. Solomon Mikhoels and Col. Itzik Fefer.

Another Tie to Our Gallant Allies is Provided, Lehman Says

Pointing out that the resumption of communications between the Jewish press of America and Russia "will serve to further our common understanding of the tasks that lie ahead in our battles against disease and hunger," Mr. Lehman stated;

"I am happy and proud today to extend my congratulations to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on the occasion of the resumption of communications between the Jewish press in America and in Russia.

"It should open valuable new avenues of contact and understanding between the press and the communities of the two nations. It will doubtless provide yet another tie to our gallant Allies and after victory it will serve to further our common understanding of the tasks that lie ahead in our battles against disease and hunger that we may together establish a just and durable peace.

"I congratulate the Russian nation on today becoming a member of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees. Together we will do all possible to aid the tortured Jewish refugees of the world."

Judge Proskauer, Rabbi Wise Join in Hailing Russia's Step

Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee, and Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress and chairman of the executive committee of the World Jewish Congress, also hailed Russia's joining the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, in statements issued here.

"As president of the American Jewish Committee," Judge Proskauer writes, "I express deep appreciation of the advance that has been made by the action of Russia in

joining the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees. There is already a fine record of achievement by Russia in offering asylum and security to the victims of Nazi tyranny, and this new action is wholly in line with that beneficent record of achievement."

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, in his statement said: "The decision of the Soviet Union to join the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees is an event of great importance, the news of which will be received with satisfaction by Jewish communities throughout the world.

"It is clear already that a very great responsibility will lie on the Intergovernmental Committee in the task of resettling the large numbers of people who have been displaced and uprooted by the Hitler barbarians. The first conference of UNRRA at Atlantic City was compelled to come to the conclusion that repatriation was a solution for only part of the gigantic refugee problem which has been created. It will fall to the Intergovernmental Committee to organize the resettlement of many hundreds of thousands in new lands where they will have an opportunity to rebuild their lives in peace and security. Such a task could only be undertaken by an inter-governmental agency commanding the support of the whole of the free world. The Soviet Union's adhesion to the Committee will not only add new strength, but by completing the circle of great powers represented, provide the requisite authority.

"No great intergovernmental task can be completed, or should be attempted in the future without the full cooperation of Soviet Russia which has not only proved itself to be the heroic ally of the civilized world, but has revealed sources of constructive strength and the capacity for creative achievement which must play their full part in the building of the new and better world for which we are all fighting.

"The Jewish people has an especial reason for welcoming this strengthening of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees. We are encouraged to believe that henceforth some of the hopes we have cherished will be fulfilled and that the Committee so strengthened will now be given the opportunity to rise to the full height of the challenge with which it is presented."

#### ROBERT PILPEL JOINS STAFF OF J.D.C. IN EUROPE; WILL LEAVE FOR LISBON SHORTLY

NEW YORK, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- Robert Pilpel, a member of the executive staff of the Joint Distribution Committee, will leave shortly to join the Committee's expanding overseas office at its European headquarters in Lisbon, it was announced today.

Mr. Pilpel will assist Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, the European director of the Joint Distribution Committee, in routing relief and emigration aid to refugees in Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and Sweden. A graduate of Harvard University and New York Law School, Mr. Pilpel is an attorney who has been associated with the Joint Distribution Committee for the past five years as secretary of its committee on refugee rehabilitation in Latin America. He has also served as secretary of the Joint Agricultural Corporation. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Ethical Culture Schools.

#### JEWISH CHILDREN CALL ON UNITED NATIONS TO SECURE ABROGATION OF WHITE PAPER

NEW YORK, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- A resolution calling upon the United States and members of the United Nations to prevail upon Great Britain to abrogate the White Paper was adopted this afternoon by 2,200 children representing 60,000 pupils from 518 Jewish religious schools of Greater New York, at the Second Annual Children's Community Assembly under the auspices of the Jewish Education Committee of New York. Representative Ranulf Compton, co-sponsor of the Palestine resolution now before Congress, spoke. Dr. Alexander M. Dushkin, executive director of the Jewish Education Committee, presided.