VOL. XIII No. 140. (28th year)

Wednesday, June 19, 1946

JTA Daily News Bulletin

AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17. N. Y.

OPEN WARFARE BETWEEN JEWS AND BRITISH IN PALESTINE; OFFICERS KIDNAPPED; TEL AVIV CURFEWED

JERUSALEM. June 18. (JTA) -- The conflict between the Jews and British in Palestine took on the aspects of open warfare today as armed forces of both groups engaged in sporadic clashes in cities and colonies throughout the country. At least fifteen Jews and three Britons have been killed since Sunday night.

Both sides are issuing formal communiques. The police and army announcements are going out through regular channels while the resistance forces are utilizing underground radios.

Early today twelve Jews armed with towny guns surrounded a British officers' club on Hayarkon Street in Tel Aviv and kidnapped five officers. The kidnappers first cut telephone lines and suspended traffic in the area and then broke into the club. As they left they flung a grenade at an approaching military truck to prevent it from following them.

Immediately after the alarm was sounded strong troop and police detachments assisted by 20 tenks surrounded the area and began an exhaustive hunt for the Jews. It is believed that the officers will be held as hostages for Joseph Simkhon and Itzchak Azbel, who were sentenced to death last week for participating in an attack on a British military camp.

A curfew of indefinite duration, effective at 5 a.m. tomorrow morning. was clamped down on Tel Aviv to facilitate the hunt for the kidnapped men. A special meeting of the Tel Aviv municipal council appealed for the immediate release of the officers.

Nine Jews Killed in Attack on Haifa Railroad Yards

Nine Jews were killed, ten wounded and 15 arrested last night following a successful attack by Jevish underground units on the railway yards at Haifa Bay, during which the power house was wrecked, a locomotive destroyed, and machines and buildings blasted.

This morning the bombed area was a shambles. A cordon of troops kept all persons away from the yards as the damage was being surveyed. The 1,300 men normally employed there were sent home.

Rail service, which was completely disrupted following the blasting of rail and road bridges Sunday night, was resumed on a limited scale today. Repair crews were rushed this morning to a section of the Haifa-Lydda line near Lydda airport where a land mine last night cut the rails.

The attack on the railroad yards was made by a group of young men and woman. reported to be members of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, who broke into the yards in a heavy

truck after an hour-and-a-half gun battle with the guards. They placed explosives in the two main engine sheds which burst into flames as the bombs exploded.

As the attackers withdrew they ran into a road block set up by British troops and in the ensuing battle soven Jews were killed, several wounded and the others arrested. The bodies of two Jews were found later in the yards, at the scene of the explosion.

All approaches to the railroad shops had been mined prior to the attack. A fire engine summaned from Haifa to battle the blaze in the engine sheds was wrecked and several firemen injured when it ran over a mine. The fires raged until dawn. Units of the Royal Engineers were clearing the yard approaches of mines this afternoon.

In placards which were posted in prominent places in Tel Aviv last night the Esgansh assumed responsibility for the destruction of the bridges, saying that il were plasted, and not eight as reported by the authorities. Earlier, the authorities ansounced that six Jews were killed when the railroad bridge at Azzib was blown up, rather than two as originally reported.

25,000 in Funeral Procession for Youth Killed During Bridge Blasting

Twenty-five thousand persons attended funeral services in Jerusalem this afternoon for Yechlam Weitz, son of a JNF official, who was one of those killed at Akrib. A mile-long procession headed by members of the Jevish Agency, the Jevish Maticnal Council and leaders of the JNF followed the coffin to a cemetery on the Mount of Olives. A general work stoppage was observed by Jewa here during the funeral.

A broadcast over the Haganah station "Voice of Israel" tonight warned the British military forces that no retaliatory or punitive measures would halt the activities of the Jeviah resistance. It eads that the sabotage carried out during the last two days was aimed at cutting vital British communication lines from the British military base in Palestine.

The broadcast reiterated previous varnings that the Jewish underground would not permit Palestine to be converted into the principal British military installation in the Middle East unless Jewish rights under the Mandate were respected.

Other reasons for the present operations by resistance forces, the announcer said, were to demonstrate the Jews' ability to prevent military aid from being sent to the Palestine Arabs from neighboring countries, and also to show that the resistance can operate not only in the vicinity of the Jewish settlements, but also in areas which are predominantly Arab, and along the borders of Palestine.

Thousands of Troops Patrol Countryside; Raid Jewish Settlements

Meanwhile, thousands of troops were patrolling the countryside in the area of Sunday night's attacks and large numbers of men and women were arrested after raids on Jevish sattlements. Several of those detained are reported to be suffering from bullat wounds.

An army communique issued this morning said that police dogs following a trail picked up at the blasted Azzib bridge led troops to the colony of Matzuva, near Acre, where one badly wounded Jew was found.

Matrixva was surrounded by thousands of troops equipped with tanks and artillary thou out it off from the rest of the country. The settlers followed the same tactics used yesterday at Beth Haarava and offered passive resistance. The troops broke into

the colony and searched all of the male residents. About 120 of them were taken to have for further questioning.

Searches were also carried out in the colonies of Hanita, near Matzuwa, and in Kineret and Maagan, in the Tiberias area. Seven Jews were arrested at Kineret on suspicion of having participated in an attack on a patrol of the Transjordan Frontier Force nearby.

U.H. BODY DECIDES GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN JEWS SHOULD BE AIDEN BY NEW REFUGEE AGENCY

NEW YORK, June 18. (JTA) -- German and Austrian Jews will be assisted by the new international refugee agency to be set up by the United Nations, in accordance with a decision adopted today by the U.N. Economic and Social Council.

Over strenuous objections by British delegate Sir George Rendel, the countil by a vote of 6 to 5 adopted an amended version of the recommendation by the special U.S. Committee on Refugees and Displaced Persons, which met recently in London, that Austrian and German Jews be included in the category of "refugees."

The amendment which was proposed by the French delegate also classifies as a "refugee" a "person of Jevish origin who resided in Germany or Austria whether foreigner or stateless, and who was detained in, or was obliged to flee from, and was subsequently returned to one of those countries as a result of enemy action or of war circumstances, and who has not yet been firmly resottled there."

The Council defeated a British substitute proposal which would not have specifically mentioned the German and Austrian Jews as coming within the province of the refugee agency, but would have merely cited them as the type of person in Germany and Austria to whom assistance should be given.

Yugoslav delegate Leon Mates replying to objections by some members to mentioning Jews as such said that it was absurd for the Council to fear that it was practicing discrimination by singling out the Jews as a special problem. "This discrimination," he said, "was made in a horrible way by the Mazis in 1933 and even before."

The major portion of the Council's afternoon session today was devoted to discussing a definition of Displaced Persons and also the conditions under which refugees and DP's would become the concern of the international refugee body. The discussions will be continued tomorrow.

(Army authorities in Frankfurt were quoted today as stating that Jews and other Eastern Europeans were entering the American zone of Germany in increasing numbers, creating a difficult situation.)

Lehman Asks Permanent U.N. Refugee, Health And Welfare Agencies

NEW YORK, June 18. (FIA) -- Herbert H. Lehman, former director general of MERA, addressing a conference of the Y.W.C.A., said today that he hoped that the present session of the U.M. Economic and Social Council would draw up effective safe-guards for the displaced persons.

Mr. Lehman proposed that the U.N. establish permanent commissions to take over the health and welfare work now being carried out by UNRRA. He expressed the belief that if the United Mations "really tackle these tirres fields of refugees, health and welfare with vigor and determination, it should be possible to establish more permanent machinery by the beginning of 1947, and thus enable UNRRA's functions to be transferred without interruption."

ATTLEE SAYS ERITISH GOVT. NOT PREPARED TO MAKE STATEMENT ON PALESTINE; CONSULTING U.S.

LONDON, June 18. (JTA) -- Frime Minister Clement Attlee said today that he was not in a position to make any statement concerning the British Government's proposals on Palestine. He told Commons that the Government was now in contact with the U.S. Government and, therefore he could not make any comment.

A Foreign Office spokesman today declared that the British Government had not yet received the reply of the Jevish Agency to the invitation of Britain and the United States to comment on the report of the Anglo-American inquiry committee. (The Jevish Telegraphic Agency reported the highlights of the Jevish Agency statement Monday). The same spokesman refused to divulge the names of the British committee of experts conferring with a four-man American group of State and War Department specialists on the technical problems involved in implementing the inquiry committee's recommendations.

Attlee's statement in Commons was occasioned by questions from Barnett Janner, Labor M.P., on what steps the British Government was taking to facilitate the transfer of 100,000 Jews from Europe to Palestine. Janner was joined by Sermel Silverzan, also a Laborite, who declared that the delay in implementing the immigration recommendation was pushing the displaced Jews to a point "beyond human endurance." Col. Oliver Stanley, Conservative and former Colonial Minister, said that the present "grave" events in Palestine made a Government decision "urgent."

It was revealed today that the British Government has received a note from the Arab League denouncing the proposals of the inquiry committee. The League said: the immigration of 100,000 Jews to Felestine is incompatible with the country's economic capacity; it would not cooperate in "economic projects liable to lead to expansion of Zionism;" it questioned the validity of the Felestine Mandate; and it warmed that implementation of the inquiry committee's recommendations might lead to disturbances in Palestine and elsewhere in the Middle Kast.

REFRESENTATIVES OF CABINET COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE TO CONFER WITH BRITISH IN LONDON

WASHINGTON, June 18. (JTA) -- Henry W. Gredy and Goldthwaite H. Dorr, alternates to the Secretaries of State and War on the Cabinet committee on Palestine, will go to London for discussions with the British Government, although the date for their visit has not yet been set, Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson announced today.

Mr. Acheson said that in the meantime Mr. Grady and Mr. Dorr have already not and begun the work of organization, in which they will be joined by the Treasury alternate as soon as he is appointed. Asked whether any other experts have been sent to London, the Acting Secretary replied that on a semewhat lower level four officers have gone there to work with Ambassador Harrimen in certain preliminary discussions with the Brittish Government. These officers, as reported last week, represent the State and War Departments, Mr. Acheson said that the Department has not yet received any report from the U.S. representative in Palestine on the current disorders there.

Told that Prime Minister Attlee had declared in the House of Commons today that he has been in close touch with the United States Government the last few days on Palestine, and asked whether this involves a British request for American military aid, Mr. Acheson replied he was not informed about these discussions. He suggested that the report tay have referred to conversations already under way and added that a message may be en route.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE SUBMITS ITS VIEWS ON PALESTINE REPORT TO STATE DEPARTMENT

NEW YORK, June 18. (JTA) -- Complying with the request of the State Department that it submit its observations on the Anglo-American inquiry committee report on Palestine, the American Jewish Committee today presented a memorandum to the Department asking that the U.S. Government recommend to the British Government the immediate admission of 100,000 displaced Jews from Europe into Palestine and indicate its willingness to aid in settling these refugees there.

The memorandum, signed by Joseph M. Proskauer and Jacob Blaustein, stressed that "there is room neither for dispute or delay" on the immediate implementation of the three principal recommendations of the inquiry committee; admission 100,000 Jews to Palestine; international action to facilitate additional emigration of those Jews who feel compelled to leave Europe and to ease conditions for those who remain; and encouragement of Arab-Jewish cooperation in Palestine.

Substantial aid in resettling the 100,000 European Jews in Falestine should be extended by the United States, the memorandum recommended, "in the form of provision of the necessary shipping, assumption of responsibility for feeding and velfere while in transit and advancing of financial and other assistance." It pointed out that "the U.S. Army is at present providing for those displaced Jews who are in U.S. zones of occupation, and that no additional burden would be imposed on the U.S. Government by continuing to provide for these refugees temporarily. Subsequent to the admission of the 100,000 displaced Jews," the memorandum stated, "no limit should be set on Jewish immigration into Palestine, boyond the economic absorptive capacity of the country."

PLAN FOR PORMING PROVISIONAL PALESTINE COVI. ANNOUNCED BY HERREW LIBERATION GROUP

WASHINGTON, June 18. (JTA) -- The Hebrev Committee of National Liberation today announced a plan for the immediate establishment of a provisional government of Palestine which would make Palestine "a free democratic republic" and which, they assert, will be carried out "irrespective of the anticipated rejection of the plan by the British Covernment."

The plan, which was announced at a press conference by Peter H. Bergson, committee chairman, calls for the convening in 1946 by the Jewish National Council of Falestine and the Hebrew Committee, or either, of a "Hebrew Representative Assembly" composed of spokesmen for the Jews in Falestine, leaders of the Jewish partisans in Europe, representatives of Jewish displaced persons and other "Hebrew nationals" all over the world.

The assembly will remain in office until election, by general suffrage, of a representative Government of Palestine, under United Nations supervision, to be elected no later than two years from the date of the creation of the provisional government. The government is to include citizens of Palestine "without reference to creed or descent." The plan envisages the complete separation of church end state. A United Nations supervisory board will be asked to advise and assist the provisional government until the first general election can be held.

The plan will be submitted to each member of the United Nations and to the U.N. itself, Bergson stated. If it becomes necessary to establish a provisional government in exile, he said he knew of "at least ten" countries where the Hebrew national assembly could be convened. Asked how this plan would affect the Jewish Agency, Bergson said that it would eliminate the need for it.

EX-MUFTI CANNOT BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL UNDER PRESENT POLICY ON WAR CRIMINALS, JACKSON SAYS

NEW YORK, June 18. (JTA) -- Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, chief U.S. prosecutor at the Murenberg trial, today declared that the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, who recently escaped from France, will not be tried as a war criminal before the International Military Tribumal at Nuremberg, unless Washington officials initiate a change in policy to include Aciatic as well as European Axis criminals within the court's jurical ction. This will require the concurrence of all interested powers, Justice Jackson emphasized.

This is the essence of a reply cabled by Justice Jeckson to Edgar Ansel Movrer, columnist of the New York Post, who submitted documentary evidence that the ex-Mufti was a party to the Nazi mass-murder of six million Jews in Europe. Jackson indicated that he would be very much interested in examining Hower's documents.

ANTI-SEMITISM STRONGER IN EUROPE THAN BEFORE RISE OF NAZISM, DR. PERLZMEIG SAYS

NEW YORK, June 18. (JTA) -- "Anti-Semitism is today a more powerful popular force on the European continent than it was before the rise of Hitlerism," Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, head of the political department of the World Jewish Congress, told a press conference today following his return from Europe.

"If it were not for the powerful occupation armies, whose presence gives strength to the governments in their struggle against anti-Semitic and fascist forces, the Jovs in the belt of territory which stretches from the Beltic to the Black See would be in danger of being wiped out overnight," he said. He described "well organized and politically affective movements whose purpose it is to prevent the return of their property to the Jews."

Acknowledging that the process of resettlement of Europe's Jews will take many years, Dr. Perlaweig said: "In the meantime the peace treaties must provide or an international guarantee of human rights and for the return of property and possestions of which Jews have been unlawfully and unjustly robbed. In some cases it will be necessary to insist on treaty provision for the enactment of legislation designed to outlaw anti-Semithiem."

573 REFUGEES ARRIVE IN NEW YORK: THIRD GROUP TO ENTER U.S. UNDER TRUMAN DIRECTIVE

NEW YORK, June 18. (JTA) -- The Marine Flasher, first vessel to bring immigrants from Germany and Austria to the United States since the war broke out, docked here today with its second transport of refugess. The 573 passengers were the third group to enter the country under President Truman's directive facilitating immigration to the U.S. from the American zones of Garmany and Austria.

The refugees were greated at the pier by relatives and friends and by representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee, HIAS and the National Refugee Service. The J.D.C. arranged for the passage and paid or atvanced travel costs for 400 of the immigrants, while HIAS financed the transportation of 170 of the Jewish passagers.

BOSTON MUNICIPALITY, IN PROTEST AGAINST REVIN, VOTES NOT TO ENTERTAIN BRITISH OFFICIALS

BOSTON, June 18. (JTA) -- The Boston City Council has adopted a measure ordering Mayor James Curley not to spend city funds to entertain representatives of the British Government as official guests of the city.

The bill was introduced in the council by Councilor Milton Cook, a former army major, who said that it was motivated by British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin's statement that Americans favor the immigration of 100,000 displaced European Jevs to Palestine because they did not went "too many of them" in New York.