

JTA

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Monday, June 24, 1946

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
106 EAST 41ST STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

FLASH

TWO MORE BRITISH OFFICERS REPORTED FREED, LEAVING ONLY ONE IN HANDS OF KIDNAPPERS

JERUSALEM, June 23. (JTA) -- Late tonight a mysterious caller phoned newspapermen in Jerusalem and informed them that two of the three kidnapped British officers held by the Irgun Zvai Leumi had been released.

No official confirmation could be obtained immediately.

Two of the five officers kidnapped early last week were released yesterday.

(See earlier story on following page.)

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IRGUN REFUSES TO RELEASE REMAINING THREE KIDNAPPED OFFICERS; EXPLOSIONS IN TEL AVIV

JERUSALEM, June 23. (JTA) -- Troops and police continued searching today for three British officers still held by the Irgun Zvai Leumi, as a report from Tel Aviv said that several explosions had occurred there tonight.

Although the release of the abducted men was expected momentarily today, in accordance with a promise reported to have been made yesterday by the Irgun to Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv, the extremist organization's secret radio said tonight that although it had released two of the men yesterday for "reasons of its own," it was not planning to free the other three. It attacked the Haganah for condemning the kidnappings.

Earlier the underground radio of the Haganah reiterated its appeal to the Irgun to release the kidnapped men. The broadcast warned the British that there can be no peace in Palestine until the 100,000 Jews are admitted. "The aim of the Jewish people is to build and not to destroy," it said, "but unfortunately we have to resort to violence and destruction so that the world will know that if justice is not given, we will take it."

Details of the experiences of the two officers who were released were given today in an official communique. Flight Lieutenant Russell revealed that he was kept in a cellar in Tel Aviv, chained hand and foot, for five days. He said that after his capture his kidnappers forced him into a taxi and then transferred him to a truck where he was thrust into a large crate. Also in the crate he found Captain Rae, another British officer who was also released last night. Captain Rae was gagged with adhesive tape and bleeding from a head wound. Rae said that the leader of his captors said his disciplinary action would be taken against the man who had struck him, as the kidnappers had been instructed not to harm the officers.

Both Officers Say They Were Well Fed and Not Mistreated

Both officers said that they were well fed. Every night the leader of the group, who remained masked, visited them and brought food. At Rae's request he also brought a Bible. On Friday night he gave the officers a shaving kit during his usual visit. He returned a few hours later to return all their possessions except their identity cards and informed them that they were to be released. Russell said that an armed guard then thrust a one pound note in his pocket. He tried to refuse the money but was forced to take it. Both he and Rae were brought to a garden near British headquarters in a taxi and freed.

British Lieut. Wedvush, who was arrested after the killing of Abraham Rosenberg, 35, in Tel Aviv last week as he was walking in the street, has confessed the shooting, it was officially announced today. Meir Sicherer, 27, who was wounded by troops of the Transjordan Frontier Force during a raid on the village of Kfar Giladi last Wednesday died in a Tiberias hospital today.

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ATTLEE'S STATEMENT ON PALESTINE THIS WEEK NOT EXPECTED TO BE CONCLUSIVE, LONDON HEARS

LONDON, June 23. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Clement Attlee's promised statement on Palestine this week is expected to be merely a report on the progress of negotiations between the United States and Britain and will not indicate final policy, according to the Sunday Observer's diplomatic correspondent.

The Observer's story stresses that conversations with the United States experts have not yet begun, adding that the British Government takes the view that the proposed transfer of 100,000 Jews to Palestine can only be discussed within the framework of all ten recommendations of the Anglo-American inquiry committee.

A further delay in formulating the final policy is likely since President Truman's cabinet committee has not yet arrived here. Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin may discuss with Secretary of State James F. Byrnes in Paris the broad principles on which an agreement could be reached.

Action regarding the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem may also be referred to Mr. Bevin, who may informally advise Egypt that the British attitude towards King Farouk having given sanctuary to the Mufti will be determined by whether the Mufti is prevented from interfering with British affairs in Palestine, according to reports here.

A Foreign Office official said yesterday that Sir Ronald Ian Campbell, British Ambassador in Cairo, had been instructed as to representations he is to make to the Egyptian Government over the presence in Egypt of the Mufti. Reuters reports that Sir Ronald has been instructed to ask the Egyptian Government its intentions regarding the Mufti while he remains in Egypt and to explain that Britain would be glad of an assurance that he would not be permitted to be politically active. It is not believed that Britain is asking for the Mufti to be handed over.

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE AGENCY CREATED BY U.N. EXPECTED TO BEGIN WORK BY JANUARY

NEW YORK, June 23. (JTA) -- The new International Refugee Organization established this week by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations is expected to begin functioning about Jan. 1, it is learned here.

At a session on Friday lasting until midnight, the Council adopted the basic outlines of the new agency. Additional details will be filled in at the next meeting of the Council in August. The entire project will then be placed before the U.N. General Assembly, which will open here on Sept. 3.

The most important features of the IRO contained in the draft approved on Friday are:

The members of the organization will be all the member states of the United Nations. The two directing bodies will be a General Council composed of all the members and an executive committee of nine members elected for two-year terms.

The chief executive officer will be the Director-General, who will be responsible to the General Council through the executive committee.

A finance committee was established in order to prepare provisional administrative and operational budgets for the IRO's first year of operations.

In view of the urgent necessity of making adequate preparations for the advent of the new organization, the Economic and Social Council recommended that U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie take such steps as may be appropriate to plan, in consultation with UNRRA and the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee, the initiation of work by the IRO.

SOVIET AUTHORITIES REFUSE TO ACCEPT CARPATHIAN JEWS DEPORTED FROM SLOVAKIA

PRAGUE, June 23. (JTA) -- Contrary to the claims of local Slovak authorities that all Carpathian Jews must be repatriated to Soviet territory under the repatriation agreement between Czechoslovakia and the USSR, Soviet border authorities today refused to accept a transport of Carpathian Jews who were rounded up in the Slovakian town of Mihalovce and brought to the frontier to be handed over to the Russians.

It was learned today that the permanent Jewish residents of Mihalovce clashed with police in an attempt to prevent the deportation of the Carpathian Jews, necessitating intervention by the militia.

The news that the Soviet border authorities had refused to accept the Carpathian Jews was received here with great interest. It was also learned that the Slovak authorities do not intend to release these Jews, despite the fact that the Russians are not insisting on their repatriation. Jewish leaders hope that the central government in Prague will instruct the Slovak authorities to release the Carpathian Jews in view of the new Soviet attitude.

The trial of Dr. M.R. Vasco, who was the supreme authority on Jewish affairs in the Nazi puppet state of Slovakia headed by Father Tiso, will go on trial tomorrow before the Slovak National Court in Bratislava. Vasco, who is the first member of the Tiso Government to be brought to trial as a war criminal, is charged with personal responsibility for the death of 60,000 Jews.

JEWS CLASH WITH POLISH GUARDS IN BERGEN-BELSEN CAMP; DISPLACED POLES WILL BE MOVED

BERGEN-BELSEN, Germany, June 23. (JTA) -- Reports from London that the Jews in the Bergen-Belsen camp for displaced persons had gone on strike to protest an alleged order instructing them to move to new quarters were incorrect, a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent who arrived here this week to check on the status of the displaced Jews was told.

What actually occurred was that the camp was put under a curfew following a wave of crimes committed by Polish DP's. The Jews, protesting that they were in no way responsible for the crimes, broke the curfew and clashed with Polish guards.

According to UNRRA camp director W.R. Wheatman, a former British army officer, the displaced Poles will be transferred to Brunsvick to make room for the British army's projected training school at Belsen. UNRRA officials consider it unlikely that the Polish guards, who have been accused of being anti-Semitic, will be moved with the other Poles.

Wheatman attributed the cause of the local difficulties to the size of the camp and its overcrowded condition. There are now some 5,000 Jews in Bergen-Belsen, he said. He asserted that the Jews were receiving 2,000 calories daily, but admitted that the quality of the food was not as good as in the American zone.

Joseph Rosenzatt, head of the Jewish Central Committee in the British zone, has addressed an open appeal to the British and American Governments urging immediate emigration of the Jews from Germany. "Our people cannot live any more in camps or in Germany and the moment is approaching when our patience will run out," he declared. "Then we will fight for complete freedom which means emigration."

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UNRRA AIDE COMPLETES TOUR OF DP CAMPS IN U.S. ZONE IN PREPARATION FOR LA GUARDIA VISIT

BERLIN, June 23. (JTA) -- Ira Hirschman, special assistant to UNRRA Director-General Fiorello H. LaGuardia, who just completed a week-long tour of the DP camps in the American zone of Germany, will leave tomorrow for the British zone where he will conduct a similar inspection of British displaced persons facilities. It was learned that Hirschman, who plans to return to the U.S. by the end of this month, is getting an overall picture of the DP situation in preparation for LaGuardia's personal tour of Germany and Austria next month.

Dr. Chaim Hoffman, director of the Jewish Agency's activities in the American zone, revealed today that some 2,500 young Jewish men and women are engaged in farming and are receiving agricultural training in 24 schools in the American zone. He also reported that 3,000 displaced Jews were attending vocational schools. The Agency plans to increase this number to 3,500 in agricultural schools and 4,000 in trade schools by August, Dr. Hoffman said.

He has just completed conferences with high ranking military government officials during which the problems of restitution of Jewish property and transfer of machinery and technical equipment now used in Jewish DP centers to Palestine were discussed. Dr. Hoffman declared that the military government officers had an "understanding and sympathetic approach" to the problems of the Jews.

OSE SHIPS LARGE TRANSPORT OF MEDICINES TO BERLIN JEWISH COMMUNITY; MORE SUPPLIES NEEDED

GENEVA, June 23. (JTA) -- A large transport of medicines has been sent by the OSE, Jewish health society, to the Berlin Jewish Hospital to be used for the local Jewish community, it was announced here today. The shipment was made through the facilities of the International Red Cross.

According to information received by the OSE offices here, there are some 500 Jewish children and 2,000 aged men and women in Berlin. The Jewish community has informed the OSE that the homes for aged and transient Jews are inadequately equipped and asked for further shipments of medicines, blankets, and linens.

10,000 REPATRIATED JEWISH TAILORS FACE UNEMPLOYMENT IN SILESIA; JEWS SEEK GOVERNMENT AID

WARSAW, June 23. (JTA) -- Ten thousand Polish Jewish tailors repatriated from the U.S.S.R. to Lower Silesia are unemployed, it was revealed here following conferences between representatives of the Central Jewish Committee and Hilary Minc, Minister of Industry. Minc announced that he has authorized the establishment of a clothing factory in Lower Silesia which will provide employment for at least 1,000 of the tailors.

The League Against Racism organized a public meeting here to protest recent anti-Semitic occurrences. Representatives of all political parties participated. One of the featured speakers was a representative of the Polish American Detroit newspaper "Swiat" who stressed that anti-Semitism in Poland was creating an adverse impression in the United States.

PRAGUE JEWISH MUSEUM WILL RE-OPEN TODAY FOR FIRST TIME SINCE NAZI OCCUPATION

PRAGUE, June 23. (JTA) -- The Jewish Museum here, which has been closed since the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1938, will be re-opened tomorrow. The Germans used the museum for anti-Semitic exhibitions and stored in it valuable manuscripts and other treasures, which were thus saved.

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100,000 JEWS WILL BE ADMITTED TO PALESTINE DESPITE OBSTACLES, DR. MAGNES BELIEVES

NEW YORK, June 23. (JTA) -- The imperative need of instituting self-government in Palestine "without delay" under a bi-national Arab-Jewish system based upon the equality and parity of the two peoples, was stressed here last night by Dr. Judah L. Magnes, president of the Hebrew University, who is now on a visit to the United States. He also urged that "some arrangements should be made rapidly whereby the Jews would have a voice within the United Nations organization."

"It is fatuous to think that the complicated situation in Palestine can be settled by force of arms," he stated in a nation-wide broadcast. "If one people were to conquer the other today, this would leave a legacy of hate for generations." He expressed the belief that "there can be no doubt but that the 100,000 displaced Jews will be admitted to Palestine, no matter what the stumbling blocks," and emphasized that the aid of governments and of international bodies will be required to make Palestine capable of absorbing them.

A new British policy, he stated, will find itself definitely and firmly on the right path in Palestine the moment the Labor Government decides that one of the primary objectives of policy is cooperation between the Jews and the Arabs. "Such a policy of cooperation has been announced by the British Government on many occasions, but never sincerely adhered to," he declared. "With the passing of the years this Jewish-Arab cooperation has been made more and more difficult. But it is by no means too late. The ordinary Jew and the ordinary Arab, the plain people, do cooperate even today. They are for peace, not for war."

VOLUNTEER ARMY OF FORMER GI'S TO HELP POLICE PALESTINE URGED BY BNEI ZION CONVENTION

ASBURY PARK, N.J., June 23. (JTA) -- The creation of a volunteer army for Palestine, to be known as the Roosevelt Brigade, which would be composed of former GI's, was urged upon President Truman in a resolution adopted today at the 37th annual convention of the Order Bnei Zion.

The resolution says that more "troops in Palestine are unnecessary," but "in order to ease the mind of Mr. Bevin, we urge upon President Truman as commander-in-chief of our armed forces to issue a call for the organization of a special volunteer division of GI's for service in the Holy Land, to be named the Roosevelt Brigade."

Another resolution adopted by the convention expressed "appreciation to President Truman for the tenacity with which he is fighting for the immediate admission of 100,000 displaced persons into Palestine." Louis Lipsky, president of the organization, speaking on the resolution said that only a few on the inside know how uncompromisingly the President was standing by his demand.

Mayor Vincent J. Murphy of Newark, secretary of the New Jersey Federation of Labor, addressing the convention, urged Zionists to appeal to the House of Representatives to exact a promise from Britain that no part of the proposed British loan would be utilized in the Middle or Near East to hamper the Jewish people "in their gallant fight for the return of their homeland."

ORDER BRITH SHOLOM OPENS 40TH ANNUAL CONVENTION IN ATLANTIC CITY; SENATOR MYERS SPEAKS

ATLANTIC CITY, June 23. (JTA) -- Several hundred delegates of the Order Brith Sholom today attended the opening of the three-day 40th annual convention of the organization, which is being held in the Breakers Hotel. Alex F. Stanton, grand master of the group, and Senator Francis J. Myers of Pennsylvania addressed the opening session.

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