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IRGUN FREES KIDNAPPED OFFICERS; 400 JEWS BEING SEIZED DAILY; CUNNINGHAM ASKS COOPERATION

JERUSALEM, July 4. (JTA) -- The three British officers who have been held as hostages for seventeen days by the Irgun Zvai Leumi were freed tonight, it was announced here officially. They were dumped out of a truck on a main street of Tel Aviv.

Their release follows the action of High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham yesterday in commuting to life imprisonment the death sentences imposed upon two members of the Irgun, Joseph Simkhon and Itzchak Azbel. The officers, Capt. A.W. Taylor, Capt. H.K. Spencer and Capt. G.C. Warburton, were abducted on June 18 from an officers club in Tel Aviv.

The situation here continued tense today, with arrests continuing to be made in various parts of the country. An average of about 400 Jews daily are reported being brought to Latrun prison and the Athlit camp, at the same time that prisoners are shifted from there to the Raffa camp on the Egyptian border. Fifty persons were released from Raffa today and another 50 are to be released tomorrow. The military authorities have replaced all Jewish personnel of the three camps with Arabs.

High Commissioner Wants Committee With Which to Conduct Negotiations

The High Commissioner is still pressing for "a person or committee" with which to conduct negotiations for calming the Jewish community, it is learned reliably. He is understood to have made that the chief point of discussion during a conference yesterday with members of the executive of the Jewish National Council, headed by Isaac Ben Zvi, Council president. He told them: "You will be responsible for further bloodshed, because you still have enough influence to prevent it."

The Council members are reported to have replied that the only means of calming the Jews was to halt the arrests and raids and permit the immigration of 100,000 from Europe. Ben Zvi assured Sir Alan that "we want peace and cooperation with England--but that is in your hands." He added that negotiations with the government can begin only after all those arrested are released and the Jewish institutions are functioning normally.

Well informed Jewish circles are not optimistic about the developments in the near future, particularly after the meeting with Cunningham. They are inclined to believe that the interview was a warning by the High Commissioner that the "second phase" of operations will soon start: an attempt to split the Jewish community and encourage any anti-Agency forces. These sources feel that Cunningham is ready to follow Bevin's line of differentiating between Jews and Zionists.

Meanwhile, an emergency meeting of the central committee of the Histadruth voted in favor of a resolution urging breaking of all relations between the Jewish community and the government. The Histadruth earlier sent cables to the CIO, AFL,

British Trades Union Congress and the British Labor Party, asking them to send delegations to Palestine to investigate the situation here.

It was reported from Haifa today that two Jewish veterans of the Czech army who had recently spent much time at the colony of Yagour, which is the scene of an intensive arms hunt by British troops, were kidnapped yesterday. Their beds and bedding were bloodstained. They are alleged to have turned informer and led troops to arms caches at Yagour.

The commanding officer in the Haifa district, who had been issuing strenuous denials that troops who raided Yagour had engaged in looting, has announced that a search of the soldiers' effects had turned up many valuables seized at the colony. He said that where possible these objects would be returned to their owners, and compensation would be paid for valuables which were not recovered.

Promise to Improve Conditions at Athlit Follows Hunger Strike by 1,600

Lieut. Gen. Sir Evelyn Barker, British commander in Palestine, late yesterday promised to improve conditions at the Athlit camp, after a hunger strike by 1,600 prisoners. Following Sir Evelyn's statement and a promise by the camp authorities that a committee of the detainees will be allowed to be present at all future interrogations of prisoners, the strike was called off. On Tuesday it was reported that many prisoners had been tortured before being questioned.

In a letter received by Chief Rabbi Ben Zion Uziel last night, Barker apologized for the arrest of Rabbi Judah L. Fishman on Saturday, explaining that Fishman was arrested not in his religious capacity, but as acting chairman of the Jewish Agency executive.

Hundreds of wives of the arrested men demonstrated before the district commissioner's office in Tel Aviv today demanding information as to the whereabouts of their husbands, so that they might send them food and clothing.

Authoritative Jewish spokesmen said today that despite official announcements and press reports to the contrary, nothing incriminating could have been found in the Jewish Agency's files, because the Agency was not involved in "incriminating activities." The "top secret" army documents found there, they said, might have been communications from British Middle East headquarters sent during the war.

A board has been appointed to survey the damage done to the Agency's building by raiding soldiers. The board, which started work today, is expected to complete its task within a week, after which the authorities will consider returning the building to the Agency.

Chief Rabbinate Calls for Nation-Wide Day of Prayer on Monday

The chief rabbinate announced today that Monday has been proclaimed a day of national prayer to inform the world of "Jewry's dire plight." The shofar will be blown in all Palestine synagogues at 6 p.m.

The Jerusalem district commissioner this morning visited the offices of the Women's International Zionist Organization and offered to authorize payment of $2,000 for damages caused by troops on Saturday.

The censorship here has forbidden publication in the Palestine press of much of the American and British reaction to the present events. On Tuesday the censors killed JTA cables from New York reporting the protest meeting there. Other cables from New York and London have also been banned.

COLONIAL OFFICE ASKED TO ALLOW PARLIAMENTARIANS TO FLY TO PALESTINE TO PROBE SITUATION

LONDON, July 4. (JTA) -- The Colonial Office has been asked to permit four members of Parliament to fly to Palestine to investigate the situation there, Richard Crossman, Labor M.P., and a member of the Anglo-American inquiry committee, disclosed last night.

Addressing a mass meeting in St. Pancras town hall, which overflowed into the streets, Crossman said that a "ghastly mistake" was being committed by the British Government. He charged that the Government lacked the "human touch" and deplored the fact that settlements which had been built over a quarter-century were being destroyed and that "Socialists are throwing into jail fellow-Socialists."

In an impassioned address, Palestine Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog said: "We feel that an attempt is being made to crush the Jewish people, but having survived the Nazi inferno, Israel will not be killed by the hand of a former friend. Palestine is the only means of salvaging the last remnants of Jewry that survived the Nazi rivers of fire and blood. I have seen our brothers and sisters snatched out of the Nazi inferno. They have no other hope save their national home where alone they can recuperate mentally, physically, and spiritually and where they can start life afresh."

Asserting that the impossibility of Arab-Jewish cooperation in Palestine is a "myth," Crossman asserted that "the main reason for the lack of cooperation is the failure of the administration in Palestine to put forward and to work a plan for the development of the country which would benefit Jew and Arab alike. If the British and Americans were to make a huge loan to Palestine, if experts from both countries were sent there, if Jew and Arab would forget politics and bitterness for a little while and if all were to get down to the task of making the land worth living in for both Jew and Arab - this would be an achievement worthy of all parties," Crossman said.

Challenge Official Denial That Prisoners Were Mistreated

Berl Locker, a member of the Jewish Agency, commenting on the denial by the Colonial Office of his charges that detained Jews were being mistreated in Palestine, pointed out that the Colonial Office statement referred to Latrun prison, whereas the tortures are reported to have occured in Athlit, to which no correspondents have been invited. The fact that the prisoners in Athlit went on a hunger strike, eliciting a promise from the authorities that conditions would be improved, indicates that the Jews had been mistreated, he said.

The London Times, whose editorial policy is usually a fairly accurate reflection of the government's attitude, says that the statement by President Truman to the American members of the Jewish Agency caused "more than a little surprise" here. The paper's diplomatic correspondent charges that the President prejudged the issue and denies that the British Government is stalling in carrying out the recommendations of the inquiry committee.

The Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen today sent a protest to Prime Minister Attlee, demanding on behalf of "thousands of servicemen who fought alongside their Palestinian Jewish comrades" that arrested Jewish leaders be released and 100,000 European Jews admitted to Palestine. It was announced that Lieut. Col. Gerald Rossen, a veteran of more than five years of active service, has resigned his rank because "the principles of the Four Freedoms have been so grossly betrayed by the Labor Government in its dealings with the only homeless people in the world."

JEWISH AGENCY MEMORANDUM SAYS $45,000,000 MAY BE NEEDED TO TRANSPORT, RESETTLE 100,000

WASHINGTON, July 4. (JTA) -- Between $35,000,000 and $45,000,000 in international assistance will be required in 1946 to transport and resettle in Palestine 100,000 displaced Jews from Europe, according to the memorandum submitted to President Truman by the U.S. members of the Jewish Agency, which was released yesterday.

About $8,000,000 to $10,000,000 will be needed for transportation, it said, $15,000,000 to $20,000,000 for maintenance, medical care, rehabilitation and training, and $12,000,000 to $15,000,000 for immediate clothing and minimum household utensils and furniture. The memorandum asked that German reparations be used to pay for the care of Jewish orphans.

All the employables among the 100,000, estimated at about 55,000, can be absorbed into agriculture and industry, the memorandum said, while 25,000 will be children and the others have relatives who will care for them. It pointed out that UNRRA and the U.S. Army is now assisting these people in Europe and comparable assistance will be required when they reach Palestine.

YAGOUR HAS BECOME ANOTHER "LIDICE," HAGANAH CHARGES; JTA CORRESPONDENT DESCRIBES HAVOC

HAIFA, July 4. (JTA) -- The Haganah radio, "Voice of Israel," said today that Yagour, which has been partially destroyed by troops searching for arms, has become another "Lidice." "The government will have to ruin all the Jewish settlements, as it has ruined Yagour, if it intends to find arms," the broadcast continued, "but our reply will come."

A JTA correspondent who has just visited Yagour, today wrote the following description of what he saw there:

"What was several days ago one of the biggest kibbutzim (collective settlement) in Palestine, peaceful and flourishing, is today the biggest center of military operations in the Middle East. Nothing has been spared, even the kindergarden rooms, on the walls of which hang children's drawings.

"Lt. Col. West, who is in charge of the operations at Yagour, praised his soldiers' restraint, telling correspondents: 'Not a single shot was fired, gentlemen. Not a single shot.' He failed, however, to tell how one settler was dragged to a truck by six soldiers, while a seventh pricked him with a bayonet. Nor how a woman was pulled from a truck by her hair. Nor how the colony's doctor and a 92-year-old resident were arrested.

"After the arms that had been found were exhibited and photographed by news cameramen, we were shown around the remainder of the settlement. We were happy to note that the entire settlement had not been demolished: the dining room was not blown up, only severely damaged with the windows smashed and the floor broken through in seven different places; pneumatic drills have been used to rip into all cupboards and walls of houses, and even childrens' rooms have been ransacked.

"The soldiers' restraint, of which Col. West boasted, apparently did not extend to looting. Many valuable possessions and momentos were stolen. During the press conference girls of the settlement brought us some of their dresses which they had recovered from the soldiers' quarters while they were absent. They told us that the previous night the troops had entertained themselves at a party at which many of them were dressed in the stolen feminine apparel."

AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS COMPLAIN BRITISH ARMY PAPER FOSTERING ANTI-SEMITISM

VIENNA, July 4. (JTA) -- Complaints that the policy of the official organ of the British occupation forces in Austria in reporting news developments concerning Jews is strengthening anti-Semitic sentiment in this country were made to a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent today by Austrian government officials.

The newspaper is the Weltpresse, an afternoon daily with an estimated circulation of 150,000 copies. The paper, which is published by the British World News Service, is largely read by former Nazi elements who use its headlines and contents to stir up anti-Jewish feelings. Because of its official character, the paper is not subject to Austrian censorship control.

The Austrian officials complain that the paper pays marked attention to news of incidents in DP camps in which Jewish refugees clash with the authorities and gives special prominence to news dispatches from Palestine reporting Jewish "terrorist" activity. The text of the reports published is usually fairly objective, a study of the paper shows, but the selection of news items and the headlines and captions written over them seem aimed to create bad feeling against the Jews.

(Berlin reports to the Manchester Guardian recently told of a similar policy being followed by the British-licensed Berlin newspaper Telegraf. The paper's correspondent commented that "it seems a sad commentary on the state of the world that such a phrase as 'Jewish terror' should be allowed to reappear in the German press.")

Vienna Jewish leaders point out that the Weltpresse studiously ignores such aspects of the Jewish problem as restitution of the rights and property of Jewish survivors and the position of the Jews in liberated Austria. The paper also seeks to deter Jews in Austria from emigrating to Palestine. A poll taken among Viennese Jews some months ago indicated that 60 percent wanted to emigrate to Palestine.

The attitude of the Weltpresse is described as in marked contrast to the only American-controlled daily, the Wiener Kurier, which has a circulation of 250,000. This paper frequently discusses Jewish problems and statements by Jewish leaders on issues such as the rehabilitation of the Jews of Austria and reparations for the damages they suffered under the Nazi regime.

BUCHAREST TRAFFIC BLOCKED AS JEWISH DEMONSTRATORS HIT BRITISH ATTACKS IN PALESTINE

BUCHAREST, July 4 (JTA) -- Tremendous demonstrations yesterday blocked traffic in the streets of this city as thousands of Jews protested British raids in Palestine, the destruction of Jewish settlements there, and the mass arrests of Jews.

The largest mass meeting in the history of Rumanian Jewry, which was sponsored by all Jewish organizations, including both Zionist and non-Zionist groups, overflowed into the streets where demonstrators carried banners declaring: "David Conquered Goliath" and "We Demand the Liberation of Jewish Agency Leaders."

400 CZECHOSLOVAKIAN JEWS EMIGRATE TO FRANCE; 138,000 ASK EMIGRATION FROM HUNGARY

PRAGUE, July 4. (JTA) -- Two hundred and thirty Carpathian Jewish farmers and tradesmen and 170 chalutzim have departed for France where they will be cared for by the Federation of French Jews, it was announced here today. The Prague radio today reported from Budapest that 138,000 Hungarian Jews have registered for emigration.

JEWISH CONGRESS DIRECTOR CHARGES CANADIAN LAWS HINDER JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO DOMINION

OTTAWA, July 4. (JTA) -- The charge that Canadian immigration laws have been interpreted in a manner which hindered Jewish immigration was made here yesterday by Saul Hayes, executive director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, testifying before the Senate Committee on Immigration.

The Jews have "received a very low priority," Hayes declared, warning that "this is a chapter in the history of Canadian administration which must be cleared up" lest the dominion be "criticized for practicing racial discrimination long before Hitler ever came to power." He appealed for changes in the immigration regulations which would permit the entrance of more of Hitler's victims to this country. He asserted that because many applications for immigration were turned down in the last decade due to the inelasticity of Canada's immigration code, the bones and ashes of many Jews lie buried in the Buchenwald death camp.

Hayes concluded his testimony with the presentation of four demands: that the present regulations governing the entry of kin of Canadian residents be liberalized to include first cousins, nephews and nieces over the age of 16, married brothers and sisters, and aunts and uncles; that race discriminatory clauses be removed from the immigration act and regulations based upon it; that Jewish nationals of former enemy countries be classified as victims of racial and religious persecution for purposes of immigration; and that 1,000 Jewish orphans below the age of 18 be admitted to the dominion.

17 CANADIAN JEWS HONORED FOR WAR EFFORTS IN KING'S DOMINION DAY LIST OF CIVIL AWARDS

MONTREAL, July 4. (JTA) -- Seventeen Canadian Jews were cited in the King's Dominion Day list of civil honors for their activities in behalf of the nation's war effort.

Louis H. Rasminsky, alternate chairman of the Foreign Exchange Control Board, was named a Commander of the British Empire. The following were made members of the Order of the British Empire: Horace R. Cohen, H.E. Herschorn, Jack A. Klein, Lazarus Phillips, Dr. Israel M. Rabinovitch, Harry Rother, Lionel S. B. Shapiro, Zave Levinson, H.H. Bloom, Samuel Godfrey, R.A. Hornstein, H.H. Levy, David Dower, Bernard J. Kaine, Maxwell E. Enkin and Ben Sadowski, president of the Central Region of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

BRAZILIANS CONDEMN ASSAULTS ON JEWISH COMMUNITY OF PALESTINE BY BRITISH FORCES

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 4. (JTA) -- The attacks upon the Jewish community of Palestine by British armed forces were condemned here at a mass meeting called by leaders of the Jewish community. Jacob Schneider, president of the Brazilian Zionist Organization, called for fulfillment of the pledges contained in the Balfour Declaration.

A Brazilian Zionist Emergency Council was created in order to achieve unity among all Zionist forces. Many Brazilian Christians have offered their support to the Council's protest against British action in Palestine, it was announced.

5,000 ATTEND URUGUAYAN MASS MEETING PROTESTING BRITISH ATTACKS ON PALESTINE JEWRY

MONTEVIDEO, July 4. (JTA) -- More than 5,000 Uruguayan Jews today attended a mass meeting here to protest the British attacks on the Palestine Jewish community and the arrest of Jewish leaders. The meeting was sponsored by the Jewish Central Committee and all Zionist parties.

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