

# JTA

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### BRITISH TROOPS FIRE ON JEWISH DEMONSTRATION IN HAIFA; THREE JEWS KILLED, TEN WOUNDED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- Three Jews, including one woman, died today from wounds received when British troops at Haifa opened fire on a Jewish demonstration early this morning protesting the deportation of more than 1,300 Jewish visaless immigrants to the island of Cyprus.

Ten other Jews were wounded and many arrested as a result of the demonstration, in which thousands of Jews participated defying the curfew which was imposed at midnight. The 1,300 Jewish refugees were shepherded from the small vessels "Yagur" and "Henrietta Szold," which brought them to Palestine this week, into two British troopships--"Empire Roach" and "Empire Weywood"--and then commenced their journey to Cyprus under guarded hatches.

Protesting the action of the British authorities, the Jewish National Council called a general protest strike today from 5:00 p.m. to midnight. At the same time, the Jewish underground radio, "Voice of Israel," urged the entire Jewish community to unite and fight the new British policy of intercepting Jewish immigrants and diverting them to Cyprus. Charging the British Government with "declaring war" not only against the Jews in Palestine but against all the Jews of the world, the broadcast warned that "the Jewish people will continue to struggle for its redemption."

### Non-Cooperation with British Government Proclaimed in Palestine

The Jewish National Council also issued a call for non-cooperation between the Jews and the British Government, to start as from Sunday, "in view of the arbitrary British deportation of Jewish refugees." The Council decided that all Jewish members of government advisory bodies be asked to resign and that all relations between the government and Jewish municipalities and institutions be cut off.

The Tel Aviv municipal council issued a proclamation demanding that all refugees who have arrived in Palestine should be allowed to land. The proclamation appealed to the government to reverse its deportation policy.

Gen. Sir Alan Cunningham, Palestine High Commissioner, issued a statement announcing that visaless Jewish immigrants who reached Palestine before Aug. 11 will not be deported to Cyprus. They will be kept at the Atlit camp until they are cleared for admission under the monthly quota.

### Two More Ships with Jews Intercepted; Five Vessels on High Seas

Meanwhile, British naval authorities today intercepted two more refugee ships carrying 1,400 Jewish passengers. The vessels, "Kasriel Joffe" and "The Twenty-Three,"--the latter named for 23 Jewish members of the British armed forces who led the British Army into Syria--were escorted by British warships to Haifa.

British authorities today expressed the belief that five more ships carrying

Jewish immigrants to Palestine are now on their way to Haifa. The British naval units are determined to intercept and divert them to Cyprus, they said.

The curfew in Haifa was lifted after thirteen hours, but thousands of heavily armed troops were still standing by in the Haifa port area where the Jewish protest demonstration took place earlier this morning.

#### Britain Charged with Preventing Peaceful Solution of Palestine Issue

Palestine authorities today blamed the Haganah for the demonstration which resulted in 13 Jewish casualties. They claimed that the demonstration was instigated by a Haganah broadcast calling upon the Jews in Haifa to defy the curfew regulations and to prevent the deportation of the Jewish immigrants.

The demonstration started, however, after the Jewish refugees had been transferred from their vessels to the British troopships. It was reported that the refugees displayed passive resistance during the transfer and that some of them had to be carried on stretchers from the "Yagur" and the "Henrietta Szold" since they refused to leave voluntarily.

An official spokesman of the Jewish Agency said here that the British Government's attempt to stop the flow of refugees would remove the last chances of an agreed and peaceful solution of the Palestine issue.

He declared that Britain's Government had done nothing in the last year to alleviate the sufferings of Europe's Jews. The British assertion that "unscrupulous men" were organizing illegal immigration was an attempt at "face-saving," he stated. The spokesman recalled that the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on the Palestine problem had found that the desire of European Jews to go to Palestine was "overwhelming and natural."

#### INTERCEPTED JEWISH IMMIGRANTS WILL ALSO BE SENT TO BRITISH CAMPS IN NORTH AFRICA

LONDON, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- Official sources today refused to reveal the locations of camps other than those on Cyprus which are being prepared for thousands of Jewish immigrants who will be intercepted on their way to Palestine. It is believed that these immigrants will be taken to North Africa, to camps formerly used by the British Eighth Army.

From Cyprus it was reported today that the British authorities there intend to detain the deported Jewish refugees "until more permanent homes can be arranged for them." Three ships with Jewish refugees were reported today as having reached Cyprus.

The report said that a law will be enacted giving the governor power to hold the "illegal" immigrants under military supervision from the moment they arrive until they depart from the island. The law is considered a temporary measure, but will be maintained until the fate of the Jewish deportees is decided. It was emphasized that none of the Jews will be permitted to become residents of Cyprus.

All replies from the governments of European states to Britain's request for cooperation in controlling the flow of "illegal" Jewish immigrants to Palestine have so far been favorable, a Foreign Office spokesman stated this morning, except those received some weeks ago from the Rumanian Government and from the Soviet representative on the Allied Control Commission in Bucharest. No reply has yet been received from the Soviet Government in connection with the representation made last week-end in Moscow by the British Ambassador, Sir Maurice Peterson.

It was reported from Malta that Vice Admiral Sir William Tennant and Rear Admiral H.W. McCall left Malta today after discussions with Admiral Sir Algernon Willis, British Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean. Naval staff headquarters did not deny that Palestine and the Eastern Mediterranean were discussed.

WASHINGTON MUM ON TRUMAN'S INTENDED ACTION ON PALESTINE; SITUATION TERMED "EXPLOSIVE"

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- The White House and Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson declined any comment today on press reports that a plan had been presented yesterday to President Truman modifying the British federation plan. Indications were that no announcement on Palestine would be forthcoming for the time being.

Acheson declared at his press conference that the Palestine situation is so delicate and explosive and involved the lives of so many people--Jews, Arabs and British troops--that it must be handled with wisdom, restraint and care. Important as it is for the public to be kept currently informed of developments, he said, it is not helpful to discuss it now. Beyond saying that the State Department has been very active and in constant communication with the British Foreign Office on the subject, Acheson declared that he could say nothing.

Charles G. Ross, White House press secretary, asked about the purported modified plan, said that such reports were highly speculative. He stated that the President would issue no statement whatever today on Palestine. Ross also declined to comment on a question whether the President has expressed his approval or disapproval to the British of their "federalization" plan.

The reports on the modified plan said to have been given the President yesterday by Mr. Acheson, following a meeting of the Cabinet Committee, is said by well informed sources to be inaccurate in several particulars. The published version omits mention of a proposal that the United States establish special immigration quotas for displaced persons. It is also cited as incorrect in its reference to the \$300,000,000 loan by the United States to the Arab states. The loan of \$250,000,000 is stated, instead, to be allotted by the International Bank or a similar agency.

Administration circles close to the White House insist that the President will not accept the original British proposal and that he is still working on the entire subject.

CENTRAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS SCORE BRITISH IMMIGRATION BAN; TERM NEW POLICY "ILLEGAL"

NEW YORK, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Conference and the World Jewish Congress today issued statements terming illegal the British action against visaless Jewish refugees seeking to enter Palestine.

Speaking for the American Jewish Conference, Henry Monsky, chairman of its interim committee, said that the Jews held for deportation in Haifa "are not 'illegal' immigrants in the eyes of international law and their peaceful admission is just in terms of any code of human society.

"The financing of Jewish immigration to Palestine, which Britain calls a 'conspiracy' is in fact a rescue operation taking place in the clear light of day," Monsky stated. "Britain's present policy has all the trappings of a war against an oppressed people fighting for liberation."

The World Jewish Congress statement emphasized that "the action of the British Government in blockading Palestine in an attempt to cut off the so-called Jewish immigration is in itself the height of illegality. The Jews returning to Palestine are there, according to international conventions signed by Great Britain, 'as of right and not on sufferance.' The Mandate over Palestine vouchsafed to Britain by fifty-two nations does not accord to that country the right of sealing Palestine against immigration by unilateral action. By blockading Palestine against Jewish immigration, Britain is violating international conventions on which her Mandate on Palestine is based."

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LAGUARDIA REPORTS TO UNRRA COUNCIL ON JEWS FLEEING FROM POLAND; HITS BRITISH POLICY

GENEVA, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- Fiorello LaGuardia, Director-General of UNRRA, declared at the UNRRA General Council meeting here today that 1,200 to 1,500 Jews were daily fleeing from Poland to Germany. He added that UNRRA would continue to give assistance to these refugees unless the Council specifically ruled against it.

LaGuardia was taking issue with a British Government statement yesterday that Britain held that Jews arriving from Poland were not eligible for UNRRA help. He declared: "A persecuted people leaving a country--and that is the case of Jews leaving Poland--are entitled to benefit from all the help and assistance that UNRRA is permitted to give displaced people."

As a "conservative estimate," he continued, 60,000 to 70,000 Jews would flee from Poland. "We, as a humanitarian organization, cannot ignore that problem. I am sure that those who will come to the American zone will receive food and shelter." He absolved the Polish Government of being involved in pogroms in its territory.

The United States would have to take the lead in solving the problem of displaced persons, he declared, adding that, as soon as Congress met again, he would suggest that current United States immigration schedules be disregarded to permit admission of 100,000 displaced persons "as an emergency entrance."

AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS TO DISCUSS URGENT PROBLEMS OF DISPLACED JEWS WITH UNRRA

PARIS, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- Jacob Blaustein and Judge Philip Forman, members of the delegation of the American Jewish Committee who are here to defend Jewish rights at the Peace Conference, left today for Geneva to discuss with Fiorello LaGuardia, head of UNRRA, various urgent problems affecting the position of displaced Jews. During his stay in London, Mr. Blaustein conferred with Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the World Jewish Congress, who was scheduled to leave for Geneva with the members of the American Jewish Committee, decided to remain in Paris to attend the crucial meetings of the Jewish Agency executive which are to be resumed this week after an interruption of several days. Rabbi Philip Bernstein, advisor on Jewish affairs to American military headquarters in Europe, is flying today from Frankfurt to join the discussion between the American Jewish Committee leaders and LaGuardia.

Delegations Want Ironclad Guarantees on Jewish Rights from Rumania

Jewish delegations who have been meeting here to draft memoranda to the Peace Conference on equal rights for Jews are devoting particular attention to the Rumanian treaty.

There is extreme reluctance to rely upon the discretion of any Rumanian Government to protect the fundamental rights of Jews. Therefore, the delegations would like to see ironclad guarantees of such rights written into the treaty, and provisions for enforcement of the statutes.

The round-table discussions of the various Jewish representatives have been intensified, and with the arrival of Prof. H. Lauterpacht, of Cambridge University, who has been named legal consultant to the American Jewish Committee delegation, work is expected to begin on the draft of the demands to be made by the Jewish groups.

These demands will have to be presented in the form of amendments to the draft treaties and can be introduced only by one of the 21 nations meeting here. Private discussions are therefore proceeding among the Jewish leaders as to how best to secure the support of certain governments for the amendments affecting Jews.

DR. SNEH PREDICTS BRITAIN WILL FAIL TO BREAK JEWISH RESISTANCE; CHEERED AT MEETING

PARIS, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- Dr. Moshe Sneh, member of the executive of the Jewish Agency who succeeded in eluding the British authorities in Palestine when they were seeking to arrest him, was cheered today at a crowded Zionist meeting here at which he charged Britain with attempting to weaken the Jews in Palestine to a point where they could not resist any dictatorial orders that might be imposed upon them.

This attempt, Dr. Sneh said, must fail. The Palestine Administration, he predicted will never find Jews who would be willing to act as quasilings and serve on an agency which British officials may establish in place of the Jewish Agency they now seek to destroy.

The British attempt to destroy the Haganah is similarly doomed to failure, Dr. Sneh continued, pointing out that the Jews cannot depend upon British security forces to defend them against possible Arab attacks.

The attempt to keep the "illegal" immigrants from entering Palestine, he declared, amounts to asking this remnant of the Jewish people to remain in such places as Kielce, Poland, where they are liable to be massacred by anti-Semitic forces. He cited the protests of the Cyprus population at the proposed admission of Jews to the island and said that Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin's search for places of refuge for European Jews other than Palestine was doomed to failure.

Dr. Wise Believes Jewish State Will be Established in His Life Time

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, American member of the Agency, told the meeting that Dr. Theodor Herzl, founder of the Zionist movement, had once told him that he would see the establishment of a Jewish state in his life time. "I believe this," Dr. Wise declared.

Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, stated that the great powers should know that the Jews too "can say no." He stressed that Jews all over the world supported the Jewish Agency's position in the present struggle.

Dr. Sneh's entrance upon the rostrum was greeted by the entire audience rising to its feet shouting and applauding. The Zionist anthem, Hatikvah, and other Jewish songs were sung by the audience led by a chorus of children many of whom had survived Nazi concentration camps.

Locker Says Britain's Ban on Visaless Immigration Will Not Stop Movement

PARIS, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- Berl Locker, a member of the Jewish Agency executive, who returned here today from London where he conferred with Dr. Chaim Weizmann, said today that Britain's ban on the immigration of visaless Jews to Palestine will add to the suffering of the remaining Jews of Europe, but will "certainly not halt the stream" of immigrants.

"You cannot halt such a natural movement of men, women and children," he told a press conference. "The press every day is full of reports of the grim plight of Jewry in internment camps and in Eastern Europe. Thousands are leaving to escape the intolerable misery and they are naturally attracted to Palestine, a country where they know hundreds of thousands of their brethren long to take them in to help them rebuild their lives," Locker declared.

"The announcement by the British Government halting Jewish immigration to Palestine opens a new chapter in the Jewish tragedy. The British Government is taking upon itself a very grave responsibility in banning the entry of Jewish immigrants into Palestine," he added.

BRITAIN URGED TO SURRENDER PALESTINE MANDATE TO UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- Senator Claude Pepper of Florida at a press conference today called for immediate surrender by the British of the Palestine Mandate and the placing of Palestine under United Nations Trusteeship Council jurisdiction. He urged all great powers to accept some share of Jewish immigration with the United Nations fixing the quotas.

Pepper said that he thought the existing situation in Palestine constituted "a clear threat to world peace" and would never be solved until it was approached "by the combined authority and conscience of the world. The sooner the United States calls upon Britain to give up its mandate in Palestine the sooner we will be able to solve the Palestine situation," he declared.

Asked if he thought the United States should allow increased Jewish immigration to this country, Pepper said that he would be willing for 100,000, and "possibly a larger figure," to come here and that if the executive department did not provide the authority for such proposal, he would back any such move in Congress.

Rep. Emanuel Celler of New York today issued a statement calling upon the United States to withhold all further payments of money and credits promised under the British loan until the British Government permits 100,000 displaced European Jews to enter Palestine. Pointing out that all other methods of forcing Britain to keep her pledges under the Palestine Mandate have failed, Rep. Celler suggested that "perhaps we can bring Britain to honor her promises by pressure on her 'pocket nerves.'"

Rejection or postponement of a decision on Transjordan's application to membership in the U.N. has been urged by Sen. Francis Myers of Pennsylvania in a letter to Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson. He asked that official action on Transjordan's status be held up until the entire Palestine issue is solved. The letter was released today by the Hebrew Committee for National Liberation.

Rep. Adolph Sabath of Illinois, in a statement included in the Congressional Record, attacked the State Department's "indecent haste" to recognize Transjordan. He also assailed the activities of the Arab Office in Washington and affiliated Arab organizations throughout the country.

RUSSIA OPPOSES ADMISSION OF TRANSJORDAN TO U.N.; JEWS PROTEST AFGHANISTAN APPLICATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 13. (JTA) -- The admission of Transjordan into the United Nations was opposed yesterday by the Soviet Union's delegate on the Security Council's membership committee during a discussion of Transjordan's application for membership.

At the same time, Afghanistan was accepted by the membership committee despite the opposition of the World Jewish Congress which submitted a memorandum outlining the persecution of Jews in that country.

The memorandum reported that the 5,000 Jews in Afghanistan are forced to reside in ghettos created under the influence of Nazi agents who infiltrated the country during the Hitler regime. It charged that Jews are barred from productive employment, from the police and military forces and from all public offices.

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