

Wednesday, August 28, 1946

JTA*Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

JEWISH AGENCY MEMBERS FAIL TO REACH DECISION ON INVITATION TO ROUND-TABLE PARLEY

LONDON, Aug. 27. (JTA)--Members of the Jewish Agency executive, after meeting in London for over three hours today, were reported to have failed to reach a decision on the question of acceptance of Britain's invitation to the round-table conference on Palestine, which is scheduled to open here on Sept. 9.

After the meeting, they left for Paris to continue discussions there with David Ben Gurion, chairman of the executive, and with other executive members who are now in Paris. A statement from the Jewish Agency on its final decision was expected today, but will apparently not be issued before tomorrow at the earliest.

Two major difficulties are reported to be faced by the Jewish Agency executive in connection with the British invitation. The Jewish Agency wishes to be the body responsible for inviting representatives of other Jewish organizations, including non-Zionists groups, while the British Government has indicated that it intends to issue invitations to these organizations directly from the Foreign Office. Similarly, the Jewish Agency insists that its members now detained in Palestine be permitted to attend the parley as members of the Jewish delegation.

While no official attitude has yet been taken by the British Government with regard to the Agency's first demand, it is known that the Agudas Israel organization has been approached by the government with a view toward establishing whether the organization would be willing to send a representative to the conference, in the event that invitations are extended to Jewish groups not represented by the Jewish Agency.

The Colonial Office told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that no invitations have been extended to Jewish organizations or individuals, except to the Agency. Reuter reported that the Agency has been invited to submit a list of its representatives, but that Britain reserves the right to object to any individual on the list.

Mufti May Be Admitted To Conference, British Press Reports

Indications that the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem may be admitted to the conference as head of the delegation of Palestine Arabs was given today in the British press, though the Colonial Office termed these reports "speculation." A spokesman for the Colonial Office emphasized that no official position has been taken by the government in regard to the Arab demand that the ex-Mufti be recognized as a delegate or to the demands of the Jewish Agency that interned members of its executive participate in the London talks as full-fledged members of the Jewish delegation.

The Daily Express said today that while the British Government would prefer not to have the ex-Mufti in London for discussions on Palestine's future, "the Cabinet is not likely to allow the conference to fail merely on the point of whether the Mufti should attend or not." The evening papers similarly reported that the Cabinet may decide to accept the Mufti and the detained members of the Jewish Agency executive as members of the Arab and Jewish delegation, respectively.

STATE DEPARTMENT WILL PUBLISH DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING MUFTI'S COLLABORATION WITH AXIS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27. (JTA)--Documents establishing collaboration of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem with the Axis are being translated by the State Department and will be published as part of a collection of material on the Axis.

Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson was asked at his press conference today whether, in view of the resumption of political activity by the Mufti, the Department is considering publication of the documents and receipts which it has, and which establish the Mufti's connections with the Axis. While there is no plan to release specific documents, Mr. Acheson said that all the Axis documents of which those relating to the Mufti are a part are being translated and will be published.

The intention of the Department is to release all the documents together, possibly in the form of a White Book. But they may be made public in installments, Acheson said. He gave no date of publication, but indicated that the assembly of the material involved considerable work.

Asked whether the documents concerning the Mufti specifically implicate him as an Axis collaborator, Acheson said a number of documents involve the Mufti but that he, Acheson, was too smart to talk about documents he had not read. The impression left, from his answer, however, was that the documents in the Department's possession give evidence of the Mufti's anti-Allied activities during the war.

SHIP BRINGS 600 MORE JEWS TO CYPRUS; LABOR GROUP PROTESTS DUMPING OF JEWS ON ISLAND

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27. (JTA)--A protest against British "dumping" of Jews on the island of Cyprus was formally lodged today in a memorandum from the Cyprus Federation of Labor to the British governor objecting to "permanent or temporary settlement of Jews in Cyprus" on the grounds that such a policy may effect the island's food supplies.

Meanwhile, the deportation ship Empire Heywood, which left Haifa on Friday after being delayed a week by sabotage, arrived at Famagusta today and began disembarking 600 visaless immigrants, including 370 men, 219 women and 11 children. The landings were orderly and no guards were present while the deportees were escorted from the dock to the detention camp.

The immigrants were wearing khaki clothes which had been given them on ship-board to replace those ruined during the clashes which occurred at Haifa when British marines came to transfer them from their own vessel to the British troop ship. Tear gas and water hoses had been used before they were subdued. They said that they had been well treated on the Heywood, but had been confined in the hold of the ship during their five-day journey except for toilet purposes, when they were permitted on deck in pairs.

British Authorities Reject J.D.C. Aid for Jewish Internees

The local camp authorities today refused the offer of the Joint Distribution Committee's Palestine representative to provide assistance for the deportees. The offer, which was made to "dispel the feeling of prison," included provision of nurses, teachers and welfare workers. British officials stated that the deportees already had some medical personnel from among their own group. They also asserted that the refugees were permitted to listen to radios, attend weekly cinema shows and receive mail and newspapers. Although provision has been made for censoring outgoing mail, the British say they have not yet applied censorship.

M.V. Spurway, acting Chief Assistant Colonial Secretary on Cyprus, declared that although the length of the prisoners' stay on the island was not yet known, the question of more permanent winter quarters for them was being discussed.

800 JEWS BEGIN HUNGER STRIKE AT RAFFA CAMP; JEWISH AGENCY PROTESTS SDOTH YAM RAID

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27. (JTA)--More than 800 Jews detained at the Raffa detention camp today began a 36-hour hunger strike in protest against the delay in screening and releasing them.

The Jewish Agency today protested the use of the tremendous force of British troops which searched the tiny fishing village of Sdoth Yam yesterday and today. The Agency pointed out that the use of a force which numbered thirty soldiers for each settler including the children "seemed ridiculous" and was not commensurate with the results obtained. It added that such occurrences while negotiations were going on in London "were bound to arouse the Yishuv's resentment."

Meanwhile, the search at Sdoth Yam ended at 7 p.m. tonight. The British Army announced that one magnetic mine of the type used to blast a hole in the deportation vessel Empire Rival last week, was discovered in the village. However, the announcement pointed out that there was no explosive inside the mine case.

It was announced tonight that 50 of the 83 men, the entire male population of the village, who were sent to the Raffa detention camp yesterday were released today. In addition to the 33 men held at Raffa, the two women sent to Latrun are still being detained.

POLISH GOVERNMENT PERMITS FORMATION OF JEWISH SELF-DEFENSE UNITS; PROVIDES ARMS

WARSAW, Aug. 27. (JTA)--The Polish Government today granted permission to Jewish communities throughout the country to organize their own self-defense units for the purpose of resisting anti-Semitic terrorism which is keeping the Jewish population in a state of constant panic.

Jewish self-defense units will be provided with arms in accordance with an understanding reached between Jewish leaders and Polish Premier Eduard Osobka-Morawski. Public Security Minister Stanislaw Radkiewicz suggested that the self-defense units work under the supervision of local police authorities, but the Jewish leaders pointed out that it was the local police officers who, under the pretext of "cooperation," took seventy guns from the Jews in Kielce when they were besieged by terrorists, and that these very same officers later participated in the pogrom.

The defense units will be organized by each of the local Jewish committees affiliated with the Central Jewish Committee in Warsaw. They will consist of Jewish officers and soldiers who served in the ranks of the Polish Army and Jews who fought as partisans, and will function under the central direction of the Warsaw Committee. The Polish Government will start supplying arms to these units this week.

One of the functions of the Jewish military units will be to transfer Jews from towns where they are exposed to danger to neighboring cities with larger Jewish communities. The transfer will be carried out under armed protection to assure that no attacks will be made on the Jews while en route.

JEWS IN FOUR ITALIAN DP CAMPS WILL GO ON HUNGER STRIKE TO PROTEST POOR FOOD RATIONS

ROME, Aug. 27. (JTA)--The Jews in four displaced persons camps in southern Italy will go on a hunger strike September 1, if their demands for improved food and living conditions are not met by UNRRA by that time, it was learned here today.

The DP's complain that they have been receiving moldy bread and decayed peas in their food ration. Camp committees have been meeting with A. Variachioni, an UNRRA director, but the discussions have been fruitless.

SUBJECT AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRITISH MILITARY AND JEWISH AGENCY REVEALED IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27. (JTA)--The details of a secret agreement between British military headquarters and the Jewish Agency for Jewish assistance to British troops who stood alone against Field Marshal Erwin Rommel when he was storming the defenses of Egypt, will be published tomorrow in the magazine "Palestine and the Middle East."

The agreement provided for the establishment of the Palmach, Jewish assault troops, as partisan units whose duties, objectives and organizational structure was strictly limited and defined by the British military authorities. Special training centers were established, one of them at Yagur, which was recently raided by British troops in Palestine who unearthed a quantity of arms there.

The existence of the agreement was kept a "top military secret" and even local police officials were not informed of it. The British provided experts to train the Haganah and the Palmach. Later they formed special Jewish radio squads as well as commando groups throughout Palestine and Syria to maintain contact among the various units of the British forces in the Middle East.

British Trained Jewish Commando Units and Haganah for Palestine Defense

A commando unit for the Balkan countries was later added to the Palmach. Detailed plans and maps for every event--if Rommel's army should penetrate Palestine--were worked out jointly by the British military headquarters and the Palmach. Several weeks before Gen. Montgomery's attack at El Alamein, the commander of the British commando troops participated in a Palmach parade and addressed the unit.

The Solal-Boneh, Jewish building cooperative, under the supervision of David Hacohen, who is now held in the Latrun detention camp, constructed secret fortresses. Hacohen's home in Haifa served as a liaison point for inter-military headquarters when British troops were operating against the Vichy French administration in Syria.

One of the details of the general plan was that Haifa was to become a second Tobruk and that Jewish commandos were to defend the city to the last. When news arrived that Rommel was receiving reinforcements, especially airborne troops, British military headquarters asked the Haganah to prepare detailed plans for the immediate defense of Jewish and Arab districts alike. Facing a shortage of arms, the British military leaders asked the Haganah to arm their people from their own stores, which are now being sought by British troops.

A special force of German-speaking Jews was also set up to infiltrate and operate behind enemy lines. One such unit was named for Peter Haas, a Jewish commando leader who fell during an attack upon a German camp in Cyrenaica. Jewish refugees, some of who are among those now deported to Cyprus, then reported the movement and disposition of enemy forces all over Europe, the article discloses.

BRITISH MILITARY POLICEMAN ARRESTED IN PALESTINE FOR WOUNDING A JEWISH SETTLER

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27. (JTA)--A British military policeman was arrested today for shooting and wounding a Jewish settler at Kibbutz Ayanoth without any warning and for no reason. The wounded Jew, Zvi Frisch, was taken to a hospital.

SWISS GOVERNMENT CONSENTS TO HOLDING OF 22ND WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS IN BASLE

PARIS, Aug. 27. (JTA)--The Swiss Government has given its consent to the holding of the 22nd World Zionist Congress at Basle in November, it was learned today. A small committee of experts who will handle the technical and organizational details of the Congress will meet in Paris this week.

DR. SILVER CONFIRMS REPORT HE SUBMITTED RESIGNATION TO JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE

NEW YORK, Aug. 27. (JTA)--Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council and president of the Zionist Organization of America, today confirmed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency the report that he submitted his resignation as a member of the Jewish Agency executive.

In a statement published today in the Boston Traveler, Dr. Silver said: "There have been reports in the public press lately that the Jewish Agency has proposed the partition of Palestine into two states--one Arab and one Jewish. The only Zionist body competent to revise the basic Zionist program is the Congress of the World Zionist Organization. This Congress has not met since 1939. Between sessions only the Actions Committee has authority to act for the movement. This body has not yet met to discuss this matter and has not authorized any such proposals as are reported in the press."

Dr. Silver referred to the recent charges voiced by Bartley Crum, former member of the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee on Palestine, who said that officials in the State Department have consistently frustrated American policy on Palestine. "Unfortunately," Dr. Silver said, "Crum's charges are all too true --if by American policy is meant the oft-repeated public statements of Presidents of the United States. I have personally had occasion to register a similar protest with Undersecretary of State Dean Acheson and Loy Henderson, Chief of the Middle East Division, last May. Prior to that time the American Zionist Emergency Council presented to Secretary of State Byrnes a lengthy and detailed memorandum on this same subject.

"There has been a long record of amazing and bewildering incongruities between what the President of the United States says and what the State Department does," Dr. Silver continued. "We refuse to accept the alternative that the President of the United States and the State Department have a tacit understanding to give the Jews of the United States the run around."

Dr. Silver emphasized that his criticism of the actions of the British Government should not be interpreted as anti-British. "We are not anti-British," he declared. "We all have the highest regard and admiration for the people of Great Britain, for the high concepts and standards of democracy and law which they have achieved, and for the courage and bravery of their fighting men. But the best among them, I am sure, would be the first to acknowledge that their governments have not always practiced these principles in their international relations, and more especially in relation to the subject peoples within their empire. This unfortunately is true of all empires. But men who love freedom and justice and who, like us, are fighting for the right of an ancient and honorable people, which has suffered so much, to find peace at last in its historic home, cannot help but record that their present government is pursuing a woefully wrong-headed and dangerously blundering policy in regard to Palestine of which they themselves, loyal to their tradition, cannot approve."

ARAB-JEWISH UNITY URGED BY MRS. JACOBS UPON RETURN FROM PALESTINE; OPPOSES PARTITION

NEW YORK, Aug. 27. (JTA)--Emphasizing that "all the constructive achievements in Palestine for the past two decades become blurred by the present events there," Mrs. Edward Jacobs, a founder and builder of Hadassah for three decades and a long-time leader in Zionist affairs, deplored the terrorist methods now being used and termed these methods "completely out of line with the peaceful traditions of modern Zionism."

Mrs. Jacobs made this statement today following her return from a four-month visit in Palestine. She narrowly escaped being killed at the King David Hotel at the

time of the recent bombing there by postponing an interview with a British official, who did lose his life.

An air of tension and expectancy prevailed among the Jews in Palestine when she left the country, she said. Curfews, terror and the heavy hand of military instrumentalities, all put nerves on edge. The resentment against delays in settling the problem and clearing up the immigration disposition of the European Jews add to the strained situation, she declared.

Expressing opposition to the British "federalization" plan for Palestine on the grounds that it would lead to an isolated Jewish area and eventual economic strangulation for the Yishuv, Mrs. Jacobs said: "Partition carries the same vice and is no answer to the Palestine problem if the surrounding Arab states will not cooperate in sharing the economic interests of Palestine. Partition could result in producing an elongated Jewish ghetto in Palestine. The only thing to be said for it is that it might bring some change from the present evil by substituting another one.

"However," she continued, "if the mandatory power or a United Nations trusteeship could produce an effective program which would lead to Arab-Jewish collaboration, the problem might in time iron itself out. It is impossible for the Jews in Palestine to live in a territory surrounded on all sides by hostility, and it is impossible for a mandatory to continue in the face of hate."

Mrs. Jacobs visited Palestine in behalf of the ESCO Foundation, established by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cohen of New York, which plans to set up a modern settlement in which colonists will engage in processing and exporting Jordan almonds. The colony, to be called Freedom Village, and planned initially for 100 families, including American veterans of World War II who settled in Palestine, will be located on Jewish National Fund land and will be furnished with American-built prefabricated houses and machinery. Specially-trained experts from this country are to go to Palestine to advise on the setting up of the colony's industry.

PALESTINE COMMANDER SAYS HE WILL CONSIDER RABBINATE'S PLEA FOR 18 CONDEMNED JEWS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27. (JTA)--Gen. Sir Evelyn Barker, British military commander in Palestine, today promised to give "due consideration" to the Palestine Chief Rabbinate's appeal for the commutation of the death sentence imposed upon 18 Jewish youths, following their conviction on a charge of participating in an attack upon the Haifa railway yards on June 17.

JEWISH AGENCY WILL ESTABLISH COLLEGE TO TRAIN PROFESSIONAL WORKERS FOR INSTITUTIONS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27. (JTA)--The Jewish Agency announced today that it will establish a "Public Service College" to prepare professional workers for service with the Agency and other Jewish institutions.

The 18-month course is open to Jews throughout the world. After completion of the course, graduates will be expected to serve at least three years at one of the Jewish public institutions. The instructional staff will be selected from among the professors at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and other experts in the civil service and public welfare field.