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Jews Carry Out "Operation Land" in Negev; Establish 12 Settlements in "British Zone"

JERUSALEM, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- "Operation Land," long and carefully planned by Jewish groups in Palestine as the next phase of Jewish resistance to the British policy of restricting Jewish immigration and land acquisition, was carried out successfully last night, when more than 1,000 Jewish settlers, including 300 girls, arrived in 200 trucks in the Negev, the southern desert part of Palestine, and established twelve settlements in the strategic district which the British had reserved for themselves under the "federalization plan."

This is the largest colonization project ever carried out by Jews in Palestine in a single day. A Jewish Agency spokesman, calling it "a perfectly legal action," announced today that the settlements were laid out on about 21,000 acres of land belonging to the Jewish National Fund. He placed the cost of the settlements, including the land, at nearly \$3,000,000. Asked why the move was not announced beforehand, he stated that the reason had been to maintain "security silence."

Although it is understood that the government is not planning any action against the new Jewish settlements, the settlers are erecting strong fences around the colonies. The government, it was authoritatively stated, does not object to settlements established on legally held land, provided they do not endanger security.

Settlers Work All Night; Welcomed by Arab Neighbors

The new settlements, established from dawn to dusk, lie in the area between Hebron and the Sinai peninsula. The settlers, mainly youths among whom were many ex-servicemen, worked energetically last night erecting wooden huts and started building construction. They intend to start immediately on large-scale irrigation.

British military headquarters officially stated today that strong troop movements observed in Southern Palestine this morning "had no connection" with the establishment of the new colonies. British troops with armored cars were reported to be moving towards the Negev.

Neighboring Bedouins and Arab villagers received the new Jewish settlers in a friendly fashion. They presented the customary gifts to the new arrivals, including a small amount of water, expressing the hope that the settlers would soon be able to bring water for themselves and their neighbors to the Negev.

Local police visited the settlements and helped in various ways. In the evening, the settlers celebrated with festivities and dancing. All over Palestine the Jews were jubilant at the good news which broke the routine of bombs and explosions and signified the turning to practical and constructive work.

The establishment of the twelve settlements came as a result of three years of patient and laborious planning, which included testing the soil and studying the

climate, the dew, rainfall and other factors. The study culminated in the final decision to proceed with settling of Jews in an area which hitherto had been inaccessible because it had not been fully explored.

Preparations Started Three Weeks Ago Amidst Absolute Secrecy

The actual preparations started three weeks ago amidst absolute secrecy. At dawn yesterday a long column of trucks, water tanks and trucks loaded with building materials, foodstuff and personal belongings of 1,000 men and women moved from five different bases, all in the south, to their destination, surprising the semi-nomadic Bedouins they passed on the roads. Arriving at the assigned spots, the settlers and volunteers who came along with them to assist in the settlement, immediately set to work. One group began to unload the trucks, while others started the actual building, and still others kept watch.

The colonization effort coincides with the fifth anniversary of the death of M.M. Ussishkin, the "father of the Jewish National Fund," which was marked today by a traditional rally on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem under the chairmanship of Dr. Abraham Granovsky, head of the J.N.F., who announced that the income of the organization totalled \$13,000,000 last year. He said that this exceeds by \$4,000,000 the previous year's income and that the Jews in the United States contributed most of the additional funds.

Thirteen Jews Injured in Clash with Arabs Over Disputed Piece of Land

JERUSALEM, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- Thirteen Jews were injured, three of them seriously, today when several hundred Arabs clashed with settlers at Kfar Masaryk and Emek Zebulun, near Haifa, over ownership of a disputed piece of land. Two Arabs were also injured. Seven of the Jews were hospitalized.

A government announcement tonight said that the trouble started when Jewish contractors began to plow a section of land claimed by both the Arabs and Jews. No arrests have been made, the statement added.

JERUSALEM RAIDED IN SEARCH FOR ASSAILANTS OF RAF MEN; TWO IRGUNISTS GET 15 YEARS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- British troops today questioned more than 300 persons in the Yemen Moshe quarter of Jerusalem following the fatal shooting last night of a RAF corporal and the wounding of another. Several persons were held for further interrogation. The Jewish National Council issued a statement condemning the attack.

A military court today sentenced two members of the Irgun Zvai Leumi to 15 years' imprisonment for illegal possession of arms. The two--Moshe Mizrachi and Amram Dari--were identified by one of the officers kidnapped last June as having been among his captors. They offered no defense, saying they did not recognize the jurisdiction of the court.

The General Post Office, which has been the chief target of a continuing war of nerves by anonymous persons warning that the building would be blown up, received another such threat last night. Police who succeeded in tracing the call arrested not a Jewish terrorist, but the owner and employee of an Arab garage.

Charges against the heads of the settlement of Doroth Ruchama, which was the scene of a British raid last month, have been ordered dismissed by military authorities. At the same time, five Jews arrested for alleged complicity in an attempt to blow up a British destroyer in Haifa were discharged for lack of evidence.

A Hapoel soccer team which arrived in Haifa today to board ship for Cyprus, where it had scheduled a game with local footballers, was not allowed to proceed. They were informed that Cyprus authorities had cancelled the contest.

BRITISH AND JEWISH REPRESENTATIVES MEET TODAY ON PALESTINE; WILL NAME JOINT BODY

LONDON, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- The informal talks between the British Government and leaders of the Jewish Agency with regard to Jewish participation in the conference on Palestine, which has been recessed to Dec. 16, will resume today. Dr. Weizmann will head the delegation of the Jewish Agency.

It is expected that as a result of tomorrow's meeting, a committee will be nominated to discuss specific Jewish proposals. The committee, it is believed, will be composed of two British and two Jewish representatives.

It was learned here authoritatively that Prime Minister Clement Attlee has received no reply to the letter which he sent over the week-end to President Truman in answer to the latter's statement last Friday calling for immediate and substantial Jewish immigration to Palestine. Meanwhile, the London press this morning continued to attack President Truman for his statement.

The Times stated: "President Truman's latest pronouncement on Palestine affords further evidence of his sympathy with the idea of certain Jewish groups exercising great influence upon public opinion in the United States at a time when public issues are about to be brought to the test of a Congressional election.

"Last Thursday's statement from the White House may well compel people in Britain as well as in the Arab countries to the reluctant conclusion that no solution of the Palestine question will satisfy the President unless it goes the whole way to meet Jewish claims. His present intervention, primarily timed, no doubt, as a reassurance to Jewish citizens of the United States, comes at a moment when it may easily endanger the efforts now being made to promote understanding between Jews and Arabs as well as the negotiations with the Jewish Agency designed to bring the Jewish case before the conference when it reassembles in December."

The Daily Telegraph said: "The immediate consequence is to worsen the more favorable atmosphere that had been created. One thing is clear. Any endeavor to carry through the President's policy to admit immediately 100,000 Jews would destroy all hope of peace in Palestine.

"There can be no disposition in Great Britain to belittle American interest in the Palestine problem, but until the United States are ready to share in full the responsibilities that an imposed settlement must involve nothing but harm can be done by pronouncements that exasperate Arab sentiment and jeopardize all negotiation. If in the end, as now seems even more probable, the British Government must decide on a course and enforce it, the full cooperation of the United States, which has already been sought, would be more than welcome."

TRUMAN STATEMENT LEAVES ARABS APPREHENSIVE; FEAR U.S. PRESSURE ON BRITISH

CAIRO, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- Arab circles here are considerably concerned about the pro-Zionist statement of President Truman, fearing that it might be followed by effective American pressure on the British Government, when the Palestine talks resume in London in December.

The ex-Mufti, in a statement issued yesterday in Alexandria, said that adjournment of the London conference means failure for the Arab cause. His statement followed that of President Truman.

The entire Palestine situation in the light of the postponement of the London discussions and the Truman statement is expected to be reviewed at a meeting of the Arab League council, which is scheduled for the end of this month.

TRIAL OF 200 RUMANIANS CHARGED WITH JEWISH MASSACRES AT JASSY IN 1941 TO OPEN SOON

BUCHAREST, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- The mass trial of some 200 persons, including several generals and other high Army officers, implicated in the Jassy massacres in 1941 during which 15,000 Jews were slaughtered, is expected to open here soon.

It is believed that a special court, on which a general will sit, will have to be established since the fact that generals are involved rules out an ordinary trial.

Special investigators sent to Jassy have learned that the Sixth Hunters Rifle Regiment had received orders from former Premier Ion Antonescu, who was recently executed, to exterminate the Jewish civil population. They were told by witnesses that many Jewish women and children were buried alive during the massacres.

At Sculeni, the investigators opened mass graves containing the bodies of the Jews and found bullet holes in the back of the neck. The bodies were subsequently reburied in the Jewish cemetery at Sculeni. The investigators, who are continuing their probe, were told that another mass grave is located near Sculeni.

JEWISH MEMBERS OF POLISH CORPS IN ENGLAND WORRIED ABOUT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

LONDON, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- Many of the 2,800 Polish-Jewish ex-servicemen brought to England with other members of General Anders' Polish Corps are finding it almost impossible to secure employment because of the regulations covering members of Anders' army.

Under present arrangements, ex-soldiers of the Polish Corps who refuse to return to Poland can obtain employment in England only through the Polish Resettlement Corps, which provides manual labor. This makes it difficult for the Polish-Jewish ex-soldiers, including many officers, a large percentage of whom are members of professions.

They believe they have no future in Poland because of the violent anti-Semitism there. While they do not complain of persecution in England, they see no sense in remaining in the Corps. However, their anxiety is increased by rumors that those who refuse to stay in the Corps will be sent to DP camps in Germany.

Most of the group could easily start work immediately, since they include many medical specialists, scientists, research chemists, industrial experts and others.

DISPLACED JEWS LAUD TRUMAN STATEMENT, ASK ADMISSION TO PALESTINE

MUNICH, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- The Central Committee of Liberated Jews issued two statements today expressing support for President Truman's announcement on Palestine and asking the world "to continue the work of justice" reflected in the Nuremberg decisions by granting the surviving Jews "the possibility to rebuild their lives in their own country."

Concerning Truman's statement, the committee hoped the U.S. "would be able to convince the British Government of the necessity for an immediate solution of the Jewish question in the next few weeks by starting mass immigration to Palestine."

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S IMMIGRATION DIRECTIVE ON DP'S BEING VIOLATED, JTA SURVEY SHOWS

MUNICH, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- Immigration to the United States from the American zone in Germany, which has been proceeding very slowly since it began last April, is now almost at a standstill and there is little prospect that the situation will improve, according to a JTA survey of voluntary agencies and consular officials.

Gen. Joseph McNarney, ETO commander, recently admitted that only 5,000 persons left between April and September, making an average of about one thousand a month, in spite of President Truman's directive last December providing for the admission of 3,900 a month, with DP's getting preference.

Those directly connected with immigration work said that the chief obstacle was the shortage of trained personnel in the consulates and in the Army Intelligence Corps, which investigates every applicant.

The consuls pointed out that although the President's directive provides for above-normal immigration, it does not provide sufficient appropriations. Therefore, there is a constant manpower shortage, and some employees are even being dismissed.

It is known that the consulates are only now processing applications submitted by the relief agencies in May. Even larger numbers of applications were submitted in June and July, which means that a very long period will elapse before the consular employees get around to handling the bulk of the applications.

Some idea of the situation can be obtained from the statistics revealing that only 305 of the German monthly quota of 2,336 departed in August. The Polish quota amounts to 587, but only 351 left, while only nine left out of the Rumanian quota of 34.

It is also learned that large numbers of immigrants are delayed in Bremen because of the many American repatriates waiting to return to the U.S. and the shipping shortage caused by the maritime strikes.

Many of the immigrants have been waiting there since August, causing numerous complications. Since the next boat is not scheduled to sail until Oct. 12, some pregnant women who passed their examinations in August may be refused passage until their children are born, due to a ruling that women whose pregnancy is more than six months advanced are not permitted to sail.

BRITISH COURT MARTIAL TO TRY OFFICER WHO CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT'S PALESTINE POLICY

CAIRO, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- Lieut. Kenneth Gourlay will go on trial before a British court martial on Thursday on charges of "defamatory libel" for having published in an army wall paper an article criticizing British policy in Palestine.

JUDGE WHO DOOMED GIRL PARACHUTIST FREED IN HUNGARY UNDER AMNESTY DECREE

BUDAPEST, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- Jewish circles here are enraged at the failure of the People's Court to adequately punish Dr. Gyula Simon, the judge who presided over the fascist court which doomed Hanna Szenes, Hungarian Jewish girl who was captured after having been parachuted into Hungary by the British to contact underground forces.

Simon received a one-year sentence, which was suspended under the amnesty decree releasing all persons whose sentences were less than two years.

ELECTIONS FOR DELEGATES TO WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS HELD THROUGHOUT WORLD

LONDON, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- Twenty-two election meetings are scheduled to be held in various parts of the country this week as the Zionist parties wind up their campaign for delegates to the World Zionist Congress, opening in Basle in December. The elections will be held on Sunday. Informed observers predict that the General Zionists will obtain a large majority.

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ROME, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- In order to avoid a bitter election campaign, which might have led to disturbances, especially in the DP camps, the seven Zionist parties here have agreed on division of the four seats to which Italy is entitled on the basis of the number of Shekels sold. The Hashomer Hazair, General Zionists "B," Poale Zionists, Zionist Youth, Mizrahi, Revisionists and Italian Zionist Federation will divide the seats among themselves.

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BUCHAREST, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- Rumanian Zionists will send 14 delegates to the World Congress on the basis of 92,009 Shekels sold; it was announced today. This figure does not include the Jews in Transylvania. The date of the elections has not yet been set.

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BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- A surprising development in the election campaign for the Zionist Congress has been the purchase of Shekels by about 2,000 Communists, who are expected to vote for the Hashomer Hazair or Poale Zion candidates. Mameel Gravier, secretary of the General Zionists, predicted that the leftist parties may equal the votes of his group.

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JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- Elections held here for representatives to the World Zionist Congress resulted in victory for three delegates of the United Zionist Party, two of the United Revisionists and two Laborites. No Mizrahi delegates were elected.

PEACE PARLEY FAILED TO SET UP PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SAYS PERLZWEIG

NEW YORK, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- The Peace Conference, although it has written human rights guarantees into the various treaties, has failed to organize international protection of these rights, Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, head of the political department of the World Jewish Congress, told a press conference today. Dr. Perlzweig has just returned from a globe-girdling tour of Jewish communities on three continents.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF AMERICA DESIGNATES NEXT SATURDAY AS AN "AGRICULTURAL SABBATH"

NEW YORK, Oct. 7. (JTA) -- The Synagogue Council of America has designated Saturday, Oct. 12, as Agricultural Sabbath in order to attract attention to the contributions of the Jewish farm movement in America, it was announced today by Rabbi Ahron Opher, assistant to the council president. This is the first time in the history of American Jewry that a day of such nature has been proclaimed.