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BRITISH ARMY PRESSING PALESTINE GOVERNMENT TO PLACE COUNTRY UNDER MARTIAL LAW

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- The British Army authorities are urging the Palestine Government to place the country under martial law, it was revealed here today. It is understood that High Commissioner Sir Alan Cunningham demanded yesterday that Isaac Ben Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council, state definitely whether Jewish national institutions are prepared to cooperate with the government in checking terrorist activities and also insisted on knowing what measures these institutions have decided upon.

A Jewish Agency spokesman denied today that the High Commissioner told Ben Zvi that he was preparing to turn administration of the country over to the army. However, it is known that military leaders argue that the current wave of terror, which has been taking a daily toll of British troops, amounts to a state of war necessitating the proclamation of martial law.

(In London, the Colonial Office said today that the imposition of martial law in Palestine is not being contemplated. A spokesman denied reports that the introduction of military rule only awaited the approval of the British Cabinet.)

It was learned here today that after the Haganah's warning this week to the terrorist groups to cease their activities, strong measures are being considered by Haganah leadership. A Jewish Agency spokesman today said that measures have already been taken to combat terrorism, but he did not specify what had been done or would be done in the future. He said that the executives of the Agency and the Jewish National Council were in consultation with the heads of Jewish municipalities and other responsible persons.

This morning, a jeep carrying five paratroopers of the Sixth Airborne Division was blown up by a landmine on the highway between Haifa and Tel Aviv. One soldier was seriously wounded and the other four suffered minor injuries.

Jittery Troops Manhandle Jews; Searches Continue in Jerusalem

Searches were continuing in Jewish quarters of Jerusalem and a road check was set up outside Tel Aviv to screen all vehicles. The ugly mood of the jittery troops was demonstrated last night when three persons who were caught in the streets without their identification papers were taken to the Jaffa police station and so badly manhandled that they required first aid.

In a communique explaining last night's gun battle and explosions in Jerusalem, the police said that members of the Stern Group had stolen three cars in Tel Aviv and used them to carry bombs to Jerusalem. However, an unskilled driver ran one of the vehicles into a tree on the Street of the Prophets detonating the explosives and killing two riders and seriously injuring the driver. It added that the explosion served

as a signal to other groups of Sternists to attack previously designated targets, including a police station and the residence of Lieut. Gen. Barker.

Police and military bomb squads which were called to dismantle landmines placed in the streets decided to explode the bombs. In the process they destroyed one house and damaged six others, the occupants of which had been evacuated in advance. One child was slightly injured.

Jewish Workers and Officials Held for Investigation at Sarafand

The Stern Group is also reported to be responsible for the destruction of two administration buildings at the Sarafand camp yesterday, which were blown up when a parked truck filled with explosives was set off by a time bomb. Many Jewish workers and officials employed at the base, which is the largest installation in Palestine, have been ordered held for investigation.

According to one version of last night's attacks, they were only a diversion to cover up the movement of large quantities of explosives from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in preparation for a large-scale assault on the "government fortress" in the center of the city.

The Haganah radio charged today that British military authorities are "gambling on carrying out pogroms against Palestine's Jews," and warned that it was imperative that a disciplined, unified resistance movement be maintained in order to meet any eventualities. The broadcast hit out against "blind terror inflicted on English innocents" and the threat by the extremists that the terror would be extended to Jews who opposed them.

BASLE MEETING OF JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE DISCUSSES CURBS ON TERRORISM IN PALESTINE

BASLE, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- The executive of the Jewish Agency, meeting here on the eve of the opening of the World Zionist Congress, today considered a report from Jerusalem on the most recent meeting between the High Commissioner and Isaac Ben Zvi on the question of terrorism.

A serious view of the situation was taken by the entire executive. Grave concern was also voiced by many of the delegates who have arrived here from various parts of the world to attend the Congress. Today's meeting of the executive was the first full session for many years, with members present from Jerusalem, London and New York.

In a statement to press representatives, David Ben Gurion, chairman of the executive, declared: "We cannot say how much political violence injures the authorities, but there is no doubt that it constitutes a growing danger to Palestine Jewry and ourselves, both internally and externally."

Dr. Weizmann Declines Candidacy for Any Zionist Office

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today from reliable sources that Dr. Chaim Weizmann has indicated that he does not wish to be a candidate for any office in the Zionist movement. He arrived in Basle today and was met at the railway station by members of the Jewish Agency executive.

Moshe Shertok, head of the political department of the Agency, today addressed the opening session of the world conference of Zionist Laborites. He emphasized that while the Palestine Labor Party interprets the Biltmore Declaration to mean that a Jewish State must be established in Palestine, it is not rejecting the possibility of participation in the Conference on Palestine which is to be resumed soon in London.

DISPLACED JEWS EN ROUTE TO SOUTH AMERICA TURNED BACK BY FRENCH BORDER GUARDS

MUNICH, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- Forty-nine displaced Jews who left here last Wednesday bound for Paris en route to South America returned here today. They were turned back by French border guards at Strasbourg last night on the excuse that they did not have all the necessary documents for entering France.

The French consul here and at Frankfurt had checked and double checked the documents of the group before they left Munich. Representatives of UNRRA and voluntary agencies and the French consuls have communicated with Paris officials in an attempt to clear up the difficulty.

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, advisor on Jewish affairs to U.S. forces in Europe, today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that American military authorities in Austria are carrying out a number of recommendations for DP welfare which he made during a tour of the American zone of Austria last month. He reported that food allowances had been increased, that a number of bottlenecks in the distribution of supplies had been eliminated and that an election for members of a central Jewish committee for Austria was scheduled to take place in all Jewish DP camps later this month.

Among the recommendations he made were: that increases in food rations be made to bring the total of calories daily to the same level as those for Jews in the American zone of Germany; the recognition of a central Jewish committee for Austria, the establishment of a Jewish coordinating council including representatives of voluntary relief agencies and the DP's; and the elimination of bottlenecks in the distribution of fuel and clothing.

RUMANIAN JEWS PREPARE NOTE TO ALLIES ON ANTI-SEMITIC CHARACTER OF OPPOSITION PARTIES

BUCHAREST, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- The Jewish Democratic Committee of Rumania has prepared for submission to President Truman and Prime Minister Attlee a note informing them of the anti-Semitic attitude of the National Peasants Party and the National Liberal Party, both of which are in opposition to the Democratic bloc which recently swept the national elections.

The note will be forwarded to the western Allies on behalf of Rumanian Jewry, after a nation-wide campaign to obtain signatures to it. The note relates the suffering of the Jews under pro-Nazi regimes which preceded the present government, pointing out that the Peasants and Liberals were either in power or aided the parties in power during anti-Jewish drives. In contrast, the note declares that under the present Groza government Jews have been granted equal rights, and representatives of Jewish parties sit in parliament.

In addition, the Jews point out that many of the anti-Jewish incidents during the recent election campaign were instigated by the opposition parties which, the Jews assert, "consider themselves protected from abroad."

194 JEWISH REFUGEES LEAVE ITALY FOR BRAZIL; 250 TO FOLLOW IN TEN DAYS

ROME, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- A group of 194 Jewish refugees today left Italy for Geneva en route to Brazil where they will settle. It was also revealed that another group of 250 Jews will leave for Brazil on Dec. 15.

TRUMAN ESTABLISHES SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO FIGHT HATRED AND INTOLERANCE IN UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6. (JTA) - An executive order creating a fifteen-member Civil Rights Committee to combat hatred and intolerance in the United States was issued by President Truman last night. The new body was directed to study and recommend new civil rights legislation and other measures "to protect all parts of the population in the United States.

The committee will be headed by C.E. Wilson, president of the General Electric Company. It includes among its members Rabbi Roland G. Gittelsohn of New York City, who is spiritual leader of the Central Synagogue at Rockville Long Island, and recipient of the Navy Commendation Medal for his services as the Jewish chaplain of the Fifth Marine Division at Iwo Jima; Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., chairman of the housing committee of the American Veterans Committee; Morris Ernst, New York lawyer and author, and Boris Shishkin, economist for the American Federation of Labor and a former member of the FEPC.

The full text of President Truman's order reads as follows:

"Freedom from fear is more fully realized in our country than in any other on the face of the earth. Yet all parts of our population are not equally free from fear. And from time to time, and in some places, this freedom has been gravely threatened. It was so after the last war, when organized groups fanned hatred and intolerance, until at times, mob action struck fear into the hearts of men and women because of their racial origin or religious beliefs.

"Today, freedom from fear, and the democratic institutions which sustain it, are again under attack. In some places, from time to time the local enforcement of law and order has broken down, and individuals--sometimes ex-servicemen, even women--have been killed, maimed or intimidated.

"The preservation of civil liberties is a duty of every government--state, Federal and local. Wherever the law enforcement measures and the authority of Federal, state and local governments are inadequate to discharge this primary function of government, these measures and this authority should be strengthened and improved.

Says Present Statutes on Civil Rights Are Inadequate

"The constitutional guarantees of individual liberties and of equal protection under the laws clearly place on the Federal government the duty to act when state or local authorities abridge or fail to protect these constitutional rights.

"Yet in its discharge of the obligations placed on it by the Constitution, the Federal government is hampered by inadequate civil rights statutes. The protection of our democratic institutions and the enjoyment by the people of their rights under the Constitution require that these weak and inadequate statutes should be expanded and improved. We must provide the Department of Justice with the tools to do the job.

"I have, therefore, issued today an executive order creating the President's Committee on Civil Rights and I am asking this committee to prepare for me a written report. The substance of this report will be recommendations with respect to the adoption or establishment by legislation or otherwise of more adequate and effective means and procedures for the protection of the civil rights of the people of the United States."

MAJOR ELIOT ATTACKS MEADER REPORT ON DISPLACED JEWS FOR "DISTORTIONS AND INACCURACIES"

NEW YORK, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- The charge that the situation of the displaced Jews in the U.S. zone in Germany, as presented to the Senate War Investigating Committee by its counsel George Meader, is "distorted into an ugly picture" is made today by Maj. George F. Eliot in an article in the New York Herald-Tribune. (The section of the report dealing with DP's was first revealed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Nov. 22.)

Emphasizing that he recently visited the U.S. zones in Europe and studied the problems of the displaced Jews, Maj. Eliot says that the Meader report cannot be taken seriously because it contains many false statements. He takes issue particularly with the part of the report which says that the Army authorities suspect that the Joint Distribution Committee is financing the transportation of Jews fleeing into the American zone.

"This can only be characterized as either a deliberate or a grossly negligent distortion of the truth," Major Eliot states. "The slightest inquiry would have enabled Mr. Meader to discover that the influx of Jewish refugees has its origin in Poland, that virtually all those reaching the American zone are Polish Jews fleeing for their lives from the rising horror of anti-Semitic outbreaks in their native country, and that the borders of the American zone of Germany are open to them by the settled, humanitarian policy of the United States government and the Army authorities.

"Furthermore, the slightest inquiry would have enabled Mr. Meader to find out that the American Joint Distribution Committee, financed by the contributions of American Jews through the United Jewish Appeal, has been engaged wholly in the humanitarian task of caring for the frightened, suffering Jewish population of Europe, in Poland and in every other country where there are Jews remaining alive after the Hitlerian holocaust. The Joint Distribution Committee takes care of these people wherever it finds them--at home or on the move, in camps or in cities.

"Of its work, the Secretary of War, Robert P. Patterson, said only last Monday, addressing the annual convention of the United Jewish Appeal: 'There is meanwhile the need to lighten the load these victims of Nazism carry, to alleviate the hardships of their present existence, to bring cheer to them in their plight, to make provision for their resettlement in brighter lands. It is a pressing need. Your response has been generous and whole-hearted in the past. I am confident that you will carry on the work so well begun.' Does Mr. Meader want this work discontinued? And why does he try to give the impression that the Army wants it discontinued?"

Ridicules Meader's Sneering Remarks; Doubts His Ability as Investigator

"As for Mr. Meader's sneering remark that the Jewish refugees "all seem to be coming into our zone," how does it happen that Mr. Meader did not trouble to inform himself that the American zones of Germany and Austria are the only places in Europe where a Jew fleeing from anti-Semitic terror in Poland or elsewhere in eastern Europe can be sure of refuge and shelter?

"Again to quote the Secretary of War: 'Hundreds of thousands of homeless people have found their way to the United States zones of military occupation in Europe. They have been given a temporary haven in their flight from misery and persecution. Their gratitude has been shown by prayers and tears. Many of them the Army was under no obligation to receive. Closing of the zone borders had been sanctioned by Allied

agreement. Yet the American heart, sympathetic to the oppressed, could not fall back on legalistic decision. The Army took these people in, fed them, clothed them and gave them shelter.'

"These are all established facts, quite available to Mr. Meader. They are known to every American reporter in Germany, or who has recently been in Germany. They are facts in which every American should take pride. But in Mr. Meader's report they are distorted into an ugly picture, with a hint of some underhanded conspiracy in the background. There seems to be something wrong with Mr. Meader's ability as an investigator--or perhaps his heart is less sympathetic to the oppressed than it is to an opportunity for partisan criticism."

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE CHARGES BERGSON GROUP WITH "DECEPTION OF AMERICAN JEWRY"

NEW YORK, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Conference today charged Peter Bergson, head of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, and his various affiliates with "large scale deception of American Jewry."

Pointing out that the "pretensions" of the front organizations created from time to time by Mr. Bergson and a "small group of careerist adventurers" had been exposed by the American Jewish Conference three years ago, the Conference in its official organ The Record says that "Bergsonism cannot be dismissed as by-play and buffoonery." Of real concern, today, it adds, "is Mr. Bergson's attempt to capitalize on the irresistible appeal of two causes: the rescue of Jews from the moral and physical rubble of Europe and the resistance of Jews to the illegal policies of the Mandatory in Palestine."

These causes, the American Jewish Conference states, are the corporate responsibility of the Jewish community as a whole, operating through the Jewish Agency for Palestine in the one instance, and the Haganah in the second. Mr. Bergson, it says, has no connection with either of these institutions.

JEWISH CONGRESS AIDE APPOINTED CONSULTANT TO U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

NEW YORK, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- Dr. Jacob Robinson, director of the Jewish Congress Institute of Jewish Affairs, has been appointed expert consultant to the United Nations Permanent Commission of Human Rights.

Dr. Robinson, who has already assumed his duties with the United Nations, will help prepare for the Commission's first session in New York on Jan. 27, 1947. He has been given a 10-week leave of absence from the American and World Jewish Congresses.

ADOLPH ROSENBERG, PRESIDENT OF UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS, DIES IN CINCINNATI

CINCINNATI, Dec. 6. (JTA) -- Adolph Rosenberg, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, died here today at the age of 65.

Mr. Rosenberg had long been active in Jewish and communal affairs. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College; a member of the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference, and a member of the board of directors of the Jewish Hospital of Cincinnati. He had previously been president of the Jewish Community Council of Cincinnati.