

# JTA

VOL. XIV No. 6 (29th year)

Wednesday, January 8, 1947

## Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

### HAGANAH WARNS PALESTINE GOVERNMENT AGAINST IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW ON COUNTRY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government was warned today that any attempt to impose martial law would only increase tension and defeat its purpose of suppressing the terrorists.

The warning was issued by Haganah, Jewish resistance movement. In a broadcast over its secret radio, Haganah said that "an attempt to rule the country with an iron hand would be considered as aiming at the honor and economy of the Jews in Palestine." Such action, the broadcast stated, will not isolate nor liquidate the terrorists who are able to escape and evade punishment. "Drastic measures will make the solution of the Palestine problem more difficult and the government alone will be responsible for the results," Haganah emphasized.

Jewish Agency leaders Goldie Meirson and David Remez today conferred on the present situation in Palestine with Acting High Commissioner Henry L. Gurney. They also discussed a number of political problems involving British-Jewish relations.

Authoritative Jewish sources denied that Gurney yesterday told Jewish leaders that Sir Alan G. Cunningham was returning from London to Palestine with authority to close all frontiers, confiscate civilian vehicles, impose collective fines, extend the curfew and arrest certain Jewish political leaders.

### Jews Tortured at Latrun Detention Camp

Meanwhile, it was reported today that more than 70 Jews who were detained during the recent searches in Tel Aviv and elsewhere and sent to the Latrun detention camp, are being subjected to "barbaric tortures." The report said that they are being beaten and pricked with bayonets. They are not given sufficient food and money which they had on their person when arrested has been confiscated, it added.

In Tel Aviv, a Jewish youth, Benzion Mizrahi, was wounded in the eyes when a tear gas bomb was thrown at him by passing British soldiers. In Jerusalem, the government issued an official statement denying a report that General Sir Evelyn Barker, British commander in Palestine, had commuted to life imprisonment a death sentence recently imposed by a military court on Dov Gruner, a Jewish extremist who last April took part in an attack on a police station.

Eight armed men today broke into a Jewish restaurant in Tel Aviv. They smashed a window and destroyed furniture, causing substantial damage. The owner told the police that for several weeks he has been receiving requests from one of the extremist groups to contribute a considerable sum to its movement. He believes that the attack on his establishment was in revenge for his refusal to comply with the requests.

FINAL DECISION ON SUPPRESSING TERRORISM POSTPONED UNTIL CUNNINGHAM'S RETURN TO PALESTINE

LONDON, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- No final action on combatting terrorism in Palestine will be taken until High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham, who is now in London, returns there and consults with officers on the spot, informed circles here stated today. Cunningham spent the morning conferring with high officials of the Colonial Office.

It is believed that the imposition of martial law in Palestine would have an adverse effect on the London conference, and the British government will resort to it only if all other measures fail. Political circles report that alternative measures may include halting the movement of all civilians across Palestine's frontiers, extended curfews, extraction of collective fines in areas where terrorists operate and the arrest of certain Jewish leaders.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that Cabinet discussions this week have been chiefly concerned with ways and means of inducing the Jews to join the London parley on Palestine. It has been reiterated that the government is bringing no fixed proposals to the conference and that other parties are free to introduce any suggestions they choose.

Opinion of Government Circles Bending Towards Partition

The political commentator of the London Herald, organ of the Labor Party, writes that opinion in government circles is bending toward partition. The Daily Express states that "Downing Street views partition as the only solution," but that Britain will refer the Palestine dispute to the United Nations, if the deadlock persists. It calls on the government to surrender the Palestine Mandate, asserting that the conference on Palestine which is to be resumed this month in London "will be stultified by empty chairs" and that "one more effort to solve the problem has failed in advance."

The liberal Manchester Guardian declares that the immediate and long-range problems of Palestine are interdependent and warns that even a strong minority of the Jewish community may be able to nullify efforts to isolate the terrorists. "If this is the case," the newspaper says, "it is unlikely that military force alone will be able to suppress terrorism."

Prof. Norman Bentwich, former Attorney General of Palestine and prominent British Zionist, in an article in the Manchester Guardian welcomes "the practical plan" proposed by Palestine Chief Justice Sir William Fitzgerald for the partition of Jerusalem into separate Jewish and Arab boroughs under the control of a British administrative council. Bentwich says that while the execution of the plan will probably be postponed until after the settlement of the larger political issue, it will provide an example of bi-national administration for broad interests and partition for local problems.

ATTLEE AND BEVIN REPORTED ANXIOUS TO SETTLE PALESTINE QUESTION ON BASIS OF PARTITION

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- Morris Kentridge, Transvaal member of the South African Parliament, told a Zionist meeting here today that Britain's Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee and Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin had convinced him, during his recent visit to Britain, that the British Government was anxious to come to "a reasonable settlement in Palestine" on the basis of partition. If partition had been accepted as a solution a few years ago, many thousands of Jewish lives might have been saved, he added.

DR. SILVER CONFERES WITH SECRETARY OF STATE AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON

NEW YORK, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, president of the Zionist Organization of America and head of the American section of the world Zionist executive, conferred in Washington with Secretary of State James F. Byrnes and British Ambassador Lord Inverchapel on the decisions of the Zionist Congress, it was revealed here today.

Dr. Silver informed them of the proceedings of the Congress, its background and the resolutions adopted. He expressed the hope that "these conversations will prove helpful."

A strong plea to all Zionists "to give the new world Zionist administration their fullest support and the fullest chance to work in a most difficult and delicate situation" was made by Dr. Silver addressing a mass meeting here last night, attended by more than 8,000 persons. He said that the Zionist movement emerged united from the Basle Congress and declared that "a change in leadership does not mean a disruption in a country or in a movement."

At the same time Dr. Silver also addressed an appeal "to all patriotic Jews in Palestine, regardless of their affiliation, to refrain from those acts of desperation which are endangering our political situation both in Palestine and elsewhere." Calling for a truce, he said that an earnest and determined effort, perhaps the final one, must be made in the next few weeks or months to discover whether a just and peaceful solution can be found and every opportunity must be given to ensure the success of such an effort. He appealed to Palestine Jews regardless of party affiliation to submit to national discipline and not to do anything at this time which might endanger the Zionist political position.

"The Congress resolved to resist unceasingly and with utmost vigor the persistent violation of the rights of the Jewish people. However, it condemned murder and the shedding of innocent blood and it called upon members of dissident organizations to desist and to submit to national discipline," he said. He indicated that should the new executive fail in its attempt to come to a peaceful and just solution in the next few months "you will find all Jews united to resist to the bitter end."

TREASURY DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE WHICH CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PALESTINE ARE TAX-FREE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- The Treasury Department will soon be asked to take a hand in the Palestine situation by determining whether certain contributions made for Palestine as a result of advertisements in the American press are tax-free.

This was revealed today by Secretary of State James F. Byrnes at his press conference at which he confirmed that British Ambassador Lord Inverchapel had called on him a few days ago regarding the continued appearance of advertisements in newspapers in this country soliciting funds for "illegal" Jewish organizations in Palestine.

TRI-POWER CONFERENCE ON JEWISH IMMIGRATION IN EUROPE OPENS IN PARIS

PARIS, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- A three-power conference to consider the problem of immigration of refugee and displaced Jews in the western part of Europe opened here today. The United States, France and Belgium are represented.

The conference was called by France last November following British protests at the sailing from Marseilles of a vessel carrying visaless Jewish immigrants to Palestine. The U.S. was invited because many of the refugees come from the American zone of Germany.

U.S. COMMANDER MEETS WITH UNRRA DIRECTOR ON ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OF JEWISH DP'S

MUNICH, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- UNRRA district director Sam Zisman tonight conferred here with Brigadier General Hobart Gay, commander of the Second Constabulary Brigade in Bavaria, following charges that local UNRRA officials were protecting "Jewish black marketers" and countercharges by UNRRA officials that the Army was attempting to "whitewash" the beating of eight displaced Jews.

In a report to Maj. Gen. Ernest N. Harmon, constabulary commander in Germany, Army officers charged that two Landsberg UNRRA officials, Joe Buda and a Mr. Korn, had consistently blocked military police activities in relation to the DP's and were shielding Jews allegedly engaged in black market operations.

Calling for the dismissal of Buda and Korn, the officers asserted that the UNRRA officials obtained affidavits from eight displaced Jews accusing constabulary troops of mistreating them during questioning, and that the charges were unsubstantiated. Buda, a Polish UNRRA worker, was also accused of threatening to "get" Army officers who refused to release the DP's.

Buda yesterday denied the Army's charges and reiterated statements that the Jews were beaten and treated "in a brutal manner." Carl Atkin of Los Angeles, personal representative for Jewish affairs of UNRRA's zone director, today said he considered the Army's charges against Buda and Korn "whitewash" because they came several weeks after the alleged attempts to interfere with the constabulary troops were committed. He indicated that UNRRA would take a strong stand in defense of Buda and Korn.

Army Denies Beating Eight Jews; One Held in Hospital for a Week

Meanwhile, it was learned that the trial of Herman Plachczonsky, one of the eight DP's, who is alleged to have been injured most severely and the only one against whom charges are still pending, has been postponed until Thursday morning. The trial will be held at Bad Feolz, about 40 miles from Munich. The Army has not explained why Plachczonsky, who was arrested Dec. 15, was not tried within 24 hours as provided by Army regulations.

In a statement from constabulary headquarters in Bamberg yesterday, charges of mistreatment of the eight Jews were officially denied, although it was admitted that Plachczonsky had complained of injuries on Dec. 16 and 17. The statement added that he had been sent to a hospital where he remained until Dec. 24 and that doctors there had failed to find any injuries. The Army also denied that he had been held incommunicado since his arrest.

The statement did not explain why Plachczonsky remained in the hospital a week, if he was not injured, nor did it answer charges by his wife and UNRRA that they had been unable to ascertain his whereabouts. Previous statements by the military police that he was implicated in a rape charge have proven unfounded.

BRITISH STUDENT-LABOR FEDERATION URGES GOVERNMENT TO OUTLAW ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA

LONDON, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- A national conference of the British Student-Labor Federation today adopted a resolution urging that all racist, fascist and anti-Semitic propaganda be declared illegal by the government. Denis H. Pritt, Labor M.P., told the conference that he had introduced a bill in Commons last year calling for similar action.



TRUMAN'S REQUEST FOR ADMISSION OF MORE DP'S RECEIVES COLD RECEPTION AMONG CONGRESSMEN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- President Truman's recommendations for liberalization of the immigration laws to provide for admission of more displaced persons and war refugees, as proposed in his message to Congress, has roused little or no enthusiasm in Congressional circles. During the President's reading of his proposals, the members of Congress in joint session sat in silence.

The majority of Senators and Representatives polled on the recommendations expressed themselves as sharply opposed. Senator Eastland of Mississippi, a member of the Judiciary Committee, which under the Congressional Reorganization Plan, includes the work of the former Immigration Committee, said that he opposed any immigration whatever for five years. Rep. Earl C. Michener, Republican, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, which also now includes immigration, believes that the House will be "very reticent" toward any reduction in immigration barriers. Rep. Cox, Democrat, of Georgia, said that not even fifteen percent of Congress would agree to more flexibility in the immigration laws. Senator Pat McCarran, Democrat, of Nevada, ranking Democratic member of the Judiciary Committee, is also said to be opposed to immigration law changes.

Senator Kilgore, Democrat, of West Virginia, a member of the Judiciary Committee, and Senator Pepper, Democrat, of Florida, support the President's immigration proposals, as does Rep. Sol Bloom of N.Y., former chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Rep. Emanuel Celler, Democrat, of New York, has introduced four bills to facilitate admission of displaced persons and war refugees. Rep. Adolph Sabath of Illinois today introduced a bill which would permit the entry of a number of displaced persons equal to the total unused immigration quotas for all nationalities during the fiscal years ending June, 1947 and June, 1948. Rep. Arthur G. Klein is working on two bills to be submitted to the House in the near future.

London Paper Pessimistic on Results of Truman's Recommendations

LONDON, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- President Truman's request to Congress for relaxation of the existing immigration regulations to admit more displaced persons from Europe to the United States will not be acted upon promptly, the London Times predicted today.

"The recommendations made by President Truman to the Congress is most reasonable and desirable in itself, but runs counter to strong currents of opinion of those responsible for the legislation now on statute books," the article points out.

SWEDEN WILL PERMIT 200 REFUGEE PHYSICIANS TO PRACTICE IN HOSPITALS; WILL GRANT LOANS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- Two hundred refugee physicians will be enabled to practice in Sweden, according to a plan submitted to the Swedish Government by the General Medical Board in Stockholm, it is announced by the American-Swedish News Exchange. Almost 150 of the doctors are natives of Baltic countries, and the rest of eight other nations.

Following careful check-up on the training and education of the doctors, they will be sent to hospitals for at least one year's active service. Government loans will support the physicians and their families during the apprenticeship period.

DISPLACED JEWS ASK JEWISH GROUPS IN U.S. TO UNITE IN THEIR IMMIGRATION EFFORTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- The true situation of the displaced Jews in Germany, Austria and Italy is not thoroughly understood in this country, representatives of the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in Germany and Italy declared at a meeting with leaders and delegates of the American Jewish Conference here last night.

The representatives of the displaced Jews--Dr. Boris Pliiskin, Leon Retter, Norbert Wolheim of Germany, and Leo Bernstein of Italy, asserted that "the homeless Jews who have been residing in camps for the past twenty months have become an organized, well-disciplined, politically mature community which plays a leading role in the struggle for Jewish national survival. This small remnant of decimated European Jewry has become a dynamic power in the political struggle for a new Jewish life in Palestine and the survival of the Jewish people.

"To help them achieve this goal, a strong united political front must be established in the United States," they said in a joint statement. "We want united action on the part of all political forces in America which will make it possible for us to leave Europe's bloodsoaked soil. We appeal to you, American Jews, to abandon separatist politics, which can only bring chaos and result in harm to our cause.

"A well-planned campaign for immigration involving all groups can bring favorable results. Disparate activities may cause counter-reactions and the consolidation of all unsympathetic groups and thus jeopardize the entire undertaking. Therefore, brothers, cease toying with our tores! More unity and discipline. We are not and do not care to be the objects of differing 'actions.' When the time comes for a decision to be made regarding our fate, please be careful. We, who have undergone this tragedy and have been tested in its fire, plead for consultation."

The chairman of the meeting, Samuel Rothstein, declared that the American Jewish Conference approved the statement of the delegation and called attention to the fact that the American Jewish Conference supports the Citizen's Committee on Displaced Persons, headed by Earl Harrison, which seeks legislation making all unused quota permits available for displaced persons of all faiths. He also defined the Conference role in the movement to open the gates of Palestine to displaced Jews,

JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE VOTES \$11,680,000 FOR OVERSEAS AID

NEW YORK, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- The sum of \$11,680,000--largest budgetary appropriation in a single month since the founding of the Joint Distribution Committee in 1914--has been voted by the J.D.C. for the relief, reconstruction and emigration of distressed Jews abroad, it was announced today by Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the J.D.C.

The allocations will cover regular program needs for January totalling \$5,930,000 plus special one-time grants of \$5,000,000 for an enlarged program of reconstruction work and \$750,000 for seasonal and holiday aid, Mr. Warburg stated.

The special one-time grant of \$5,000,000 for reconstruction purposes, Mr. Warburg explained, is to provide expanded educational and vocational training facilities for Jewish men, women and children in Europe and to encourage the organization of credit and trade cooperatives and loan banks for Jewish artisans and merchants. J.D.C.-supported reconstruction programs on the continent are already helping thousands of Jewish survivors to sink new roots or prepare for productive careers in new lands, Mr. Warburg declared.