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MEMBERS OF IRGUN'S "HIGH COMMAND" ARRESTED IN PALESTINE; FLOGGING SENTENCE REMITTED

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8. (JTA)--Eighteen members of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, including "three very important persons" were arrested in Rishon L'Zion today, it was announced here. The three are believed to be members of Irgun's "high command," the announcement said.

The arrests were made by strong police and military forces in a surprise raid early this morning. Military authorities consider today's haul the most important since Itzhak Yesternitsky, leader of the Stern group, was picked up during mass searches in Tel Aviv last July.

Henry L. Gurney, Acting High Commissioner, today remitted the sentence of twelve lashes imposed last month by a military court on Aron Cohen, 17-year old boy who was found in possession of a pamphlet bomb. The sentence was confirmed a week ago by Lt. Gen. Sir Evelyn Barker, British commander in Palestine, who, however, remitted a sentence of one month's imprisonment which had also been imposed.

Jewish leaders in Palestine are anxiously awaiting Barker's decision in the case of 33-year old Dov Gruner who was sentenced to death by a military court last week on charges of participating in an attack on a police station. Fear is expressed that should Barker confirm the sentence, it will lead to a new wave of terrorism. It is hoped that the commander of the British troops in Palestine will take into account the fact that Gruner served four years in the Allied forces during the war.

Dr. Silver's Appeal to Palestine Patriots Leads to Truce

Meanwhile, it was reported today, though not yet officially confirmed, that the dissident groups have agreed to a truce and have consented to halt their terrorist activities under certain conditions, the major of which is that "no British provocations should be forthcoming."

At the same time, however, the Irgun today announced in posters in Jerusalem that should the authorities carry out the death sentence against Gruner, the extremists will consider it "an execution of a war prisoner" and will take "retaliatory action."

The reported truce, it was learned here, is a result of strong efforts by responsible leaders in Palestine, fortified by the appeal which Dr. Abba Hillel Silver made at a mass meeting in New York Monday evening asking "all patriotic Jews in Palestine," regardless of their affiliation, to refrain "from acts of desperation," until the final position of the British Government on abolition of the White Paper and abandonment of the 'federalization plan' is determined."

It was generally expected that the truce would be confirmed tonight over the Irgun underground radio, but no such confirmation was made. Nevertheless,

It is that the dissidents are prepared to halt their activities for some time in order to give the new world Zionist executive an opportunity to examine the political situation and ascertain the attitude of the British Cabinet toward resolutions adopted by the Zionist Congress.

(In London, the Daily Express reported from Washington that Dr. Silver's appeal was the result of a talk Monday with James F. Byrnes, who yesterday resigned as Secretary of State. The Washington correspondent of the Express says that Byrnes asked Dr. Silver to make such an appeal. This conversation followed Byrnes' conference with British Ambassador Lord Inverchapel. Later, Dr. Silver met with Inverchapel.)

Irgun Chief Appeals Against Civil War; Says Partition "Unacceptable"

Despite the reported truce, Menahem Begin, chief of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, tonight appealed over its secret radio to the Jewish population of Palestine to prevent civil war. He stated that partition is "unacceptable" as a solution of the Palestine problem and carefully refrained from confirming the report of a temporary truce.

Jewish observers interpreted the appeal as not affecting the truce, but as a warning on the later stages of negotiations between Zionist leaders and the British Government. The text of Begin's broadcast reads as follows:

"The British threats of imposing martial law upon Palestine do not frighten us. There cannot be anything more horrible than the present oppressive military system. If the British invent infernal measures, we, too, will find new ways to hit them. The real danger is threatened by the Jewish Agency which may be caught in the British net by accepting the invitation to attend the London conference with its treacherous partition plan.

"We announce that we shall fight these plans even if the majority of the Jewish Agency regards them as a solution of the Palestine issue. We shall never acquiesce to the partitioning of our homeland. This is not a pathetic declaration but a pronouncement of men who feel that they have a duty not only to their contemporaries, but to the coming generations." The broadcast concluded with the warning against persons attempting to incite a civil war.

Jewish Leaders Present "Peace Terms" to Palestine Government

A spokesman for the world Zionist executive today indicated that the talk which David Remez and Goldie Meirson had yesterday with Gurney was cordial and included a discussion on all aspects of the Palestine situation, and not merely on terrorist activities.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learns that in the course of the conference, the Jewish leaders advanced suggestions for peace in Palestine and terms for joining the London conference. Among the terms presented were: Acceleration of the transfer to Palestine of the Jews detained in Cyprus camps, cessation of deportation of visaless immigrants and withdrawal of the "federalization plan." They also appealed for commutation of the death sentence hanging over Gruner.

BEN GURION CONFERS WITH COLONIAL SECRETARY; ATTEMPTS TO AVERT MARTIAL LAW

LONDON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -David Ben Gurion, chairman of the world Zionist executive, made an eleventh hour plea to avert martial law in Palestine in a 45-minute talk today with Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech Jones, Jewish circles here stated tonight. He will fly to Palestine tomorrow.

BRITISH CABINET MEETS TODAY ON PALESTINE; WILL DECIDE ON IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW

LONDON, Jan. 8. (JTA)--Last minute efforts were made here today to avert or delay the proclamation of martial law in Palestine in the event of renewed terrorism. A final decision is expected to be taken by the Cabinet tomorrow.

A spokesman for the Colonial Office today indicated that a possibility exists that the British Government may propose its own partition plan which, however, will not be the same as the one offered by the executive of the Jewish Agency.

Should the Jewish Agency definitely refuse to participate in the London conference and should the British Government decide to propose its own partition scheme, then it would be fair to assume that the Agency will be invited to discuss the new proposal, the official said.

The statement from the Colonial Office spokesman came in comment on the assertion made here yesterday by Moshe Shertok, chief of the political department of the world Zionist executive, that the Jewish Agency would be willing to accept a British invitation for separate talks on the future of Palestine. At a press conference, Shertok also pointed out that the abandonment by the British Government of its "federalization plan" for Palestine, followed by an indication of its preparedness to consider constructive alternative proposals looking toward Jewish statehood might be considered a change in the political situation warranting Jewish attendance at the London parley.

Shertok said that the government's failure to react positively to the partition plan hammered out by the Jewish Agency executive in Paris last summer had forced the Agency to revert to the full Zionist program of a Jewish state in Palestine. He insisted that it was now up to the government to put forward proposals for the Agency's consideration, and added that while the Agency does not feel itself bound by the opening date of the London conference, set by the British for Jan. 21, it could arrive at a decision within ten days or two weeks.

Commenting on Dr. Stephen Wise's statement concerning his resignation from offices in the Zionist Organization of America, he said: "Dr. Wise is a very sincere person and a revered friend of mine, but I personally felt unhappy and deeply hurt about some of the extreme words he used. I consider them unjustified."

FRANCE DOES NOT INTEND TO INTERVENE IN PALESTINE SITUATION, GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES

PARIS, Jan. 8. (JTA)--A spokesman for French Premier Leon Blum last night denied that Blum and David Ben Gurion, chairman of the world Zionist executive, had discussed French intervention in the Palestine situation at their meeting this week.

"There is no question of France mediating between Britain and the Palestinians," the spokesman said. "The subject was never mentioned in Blum's talk with Ben Gurion which was purely informative."

EGYPTIAN GOVT. OFFERS \$4,000 FOR ARREST OF PERSONS WHO BOMBED BRITISH TROOP TRAIN

CAIRO, Jan. 8. (JTA)--The Egyptian Government last night offered a reward of \$4,000 for information leading to the arrest of persons responsible for the bombing of a British troop train near Cairo which was en route to Palestine. Fifteen persons have been detained during investigations into the incident which occurred Sunday.

CASE OF ALLEGED BEATING OF K-GET DISPLACED JEWS GOES TO ARMY AND UNRRA HEADQUARTERS

MUNICH, Jan. 8. (JEA)--The case of the alleged beating of eight displaced Jews at the Landsberg camp, with its resultant dispute between U.S. constabulary forces and UNRRA officials, was today removed from both Army and UNRRA local levels to the respective American zone headquarters at Frankfurt and Arolsen.

It is learned that UNRRA zone director Meyer Cohen is studying military police charges of interference by two Landsberg UNRRA officials, including shielding of operators of an alleged "Jewish black market." No indication has yet been given by UNRRA headquarters whether a formal reply will be made to the charges.

Responsible Jewish leaders are concerned with the Landsberg developments, fearing that they may strain relations between the Army and the displaced Jews at a time when the Jewish leaders' DP work program has reached the advanced planning stages.

Meanwhile, it was announced that Dr. Samuel Gringauz, a Landsberg camp leader, will serve as defense counsel for Herman Plachozonsky, the only one of the eight DP's who will be tried on charges of assaulting an American officer. The charges were filed this month, following allegations by the DP's that they had been beaten during questioning last month.

A new trouble spot is developing in the town of Neurnberg vorm Wald, in northern Bavaria, with the announcement that seven DP's, including four Jews, will be tried on charges arising from a disturbance during the exhumation of the bodies of 33 victims at a nearby concentration camp. The charges against the DP's, which will be heard in a military government intermediate court Jan. 14, consist of interfering with the activities of the military government and assaulting Germans. DP leaders and voluntary relief agency officials fear that the reopening of the incident may provoke fresh incidents and disorders.

GEORGE RUMANIAN LEGATIONS ABROAD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST JEWS SEEKING TO RE-ENTER RUMANIA

BUCHAREST, Jan. 8. (JTA)--Rumanian Jewish deportees and political refugees abroad seeking to return to their homeland are being delayed by Rumanian foreign legations, the Federation of Jewish Communities of Rumania today declared in a formal complaint submitted by Foreign Minister Gheorghe Tartarescu.

Charging discriminatory treatment, the memorandum says that applications by non-Jews are processed on the spot, while Jewish applications are forwarded to Bucharest. In Stockholm refugees have been waiting for a year for permission to enter their homeland, the Federation asserted.

The OSE is conducting a nation-wide census to determine the number of Jewish orphans and persons suffering from tuberculosis in preparation for a large-scale program of relief and medical care, it was announced here today.

CHIEF RABBI OF RUMANIA SAILS FOR UNITED STATES TO REPORT ON CONDITIONS OF JEWISH LIFE

PARIS, Jan. 8. (JTA)--Rabbi Alexander Shafran, chief rabbi of Rumania, sailed today from France for the United States. He will be the first Rumanian Jewish leader to visit America since the outbreak of the war.

One of the principal purposes of Rabbi Shafran's trip to America is to report on conditions of Jewish life in Rumania since the liberation. He will deliver his report at a public session of the annual meeting of the Joint Distribution Committee which is to be held in New York next Sunday.

DR. SILVER APPEALS TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO HALT MILITARY OFFENSIVE IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA)--Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and president of the Zionist Organization of America, today appealed to the British Government not to embark on its proposed military offensive in Palestine.

Warning that such action by British troops against the Jewish people of Palestine would serve only to "create new obstacles in the way of mutual understanding," the American Zionist leader who Monday night called upon all Jews in Palestine "to refrain from those acts of desperation which are endangering our political position, both in Palestine and elsewhere" and appealed for a truce, declared:

"No just and sound solution of the Palestine problem can be achieved by taking the path of reprisal. American public opinion, Jewish and Christian alike, will not condone military oppression in the Holy Land and the subjection of the entire population to the tyranny of martial law."

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE URGES STATE DEPT. TO INVESTIGATE CONDITIONS IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA)--Charging that the Jewish population of Palestine is being subjected "to a lawless regime of oppression and brute force," the American Jewish Conference today urged the State Department to investigate conditions there.

The Conference's action followed disclosure that British soldiers and police had rounded up the male population in the Montefiore District of Tel Aviv in Palestine and had compelled 60 to 70 Jews to run the gauntlet between rows of soldiers and police who struck them with rifle butts and clubs. This action was characterized by the Conference as "a particularly nasty display of anti-Semitism which cannot but lead to retaliatory acts of violence."

REP. CELLER, IN CONGRESSIONAL SPEECH, CALLS FOR PARTITION OF PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. (JTA)- Rep. Emanuel Celler, New York Democrat, the first congressional leader to be heard on the Palestine question this session, today told the House that it is "imperative" that Britain realize the immediate necessity for partition of the Holy Land into separate Jewish and Arab states "each in control of and fully responsible for the economic, political and social development of their own spheres."

"We cannot overlook the importance of achieving peace in the Middle East if we are bent on world peace," Celler said. "The deadlock in the middle east must be broken." With partition the friction and tension now evident between Arab and Jew would cease, he declared, and energies would be directed toward a program of economic and social progress in the middle east. Celler suggested that the Arab state that would result from partition be joined to Transjordan.

BRITISH NAVAL CADET WHO SMASHED LONDON SYNAGOGUE WINDOWS FINED FOUR DOLLARS

LONDON, Jan. 8. (JTA)--A 16-year-old British naval cadet was today fined four dollars for breaking seven windows of the Willesdon synagogue last week.

The youth, who has two brothers in the British service in Palestine, told the court: "I did it because I don't like Jews." Shortly after smashing the windows he walked into a police station and surrendered.

CONGRESS GETS BILL BANNING CIRCULATION OF ANTI-SEMITIC LITERATURE BY MAIL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. (JTA)--Rep. Walter A. Lynch, Democrat of New York, today introduced in the House of Representatives a bill providing a fine up to \$5,000 and five years imprisonment for circulation through the mail of newspapers, magazines or other publications designed to stir up racial ill will. The bill was referred to the Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

POLISH PRESIDENT EXPRESSES HOPE HIS COUNTRY WILL SHED RACIAL PREJUDICE DURING 1947

WARSAW, Jan. 8. (JTA)--Polish President Boleslaw Beirut, in an audience granted to William Bein, Joint Distribution Committee director, and local Jewish leaders, expressed the hope that Poland would "shed the remainders of racial prejudice" during 1947.

He told the Jewish representatives that he hoped their work would continue, and that with their aid the Jewish population would be able to further develop its communal life on a basis of full equality with the rest of the Polish people. President Beirut also declared that their aid was of benefit not only to the Jews but to the country in general.

HIAS WORK WILL REQUIRE \$5,000,000 THIS YEAR AS COMPARED WITH \$1,500,000 LAST YEAR

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA)--A budget of \$5,000,000 will be required by HIAS in 1947 to implement a program of increased Jewish emigration from various countries in Europe, it was reported by Isaac L. Asofsky, executive director, at a meeting of the board of directors of the organization last night. The HIAS budget for 1946 was \$1,500,000.

Returning from a two-month trip during which he visited many countries in Europe, Asofsky reported that anti-Semitism is still strong in Germany, Austria, Poland, Rumania and other countries. "Europe's Jews," he said, "feel that they are perched on the rim of a veritable volcano filled with the lava of hate and intolerance." A sense of insecurity prompts many thousands of Jews to seek emigration to countries where they can live in peace after surviving Hitler's reign of terror, he declared.

In Poland, Asofsky reported, Jews do not speak Yiddish any longer, and many find it expedient to disguise their Jewish-sounding names, even though the government is friendly to the Jews. He estimated that there are about 80,000 Jews there today, and said that most of them want to emigrate. In Austria, Jews who have returned cannot retrieve their properties and "are constantly harassed by obvious indications that Nazism still lives." In Rumania, Jews face anti-Semitism, not from the government but from the people, the HIAS director declared.

B'NAI B'RITH NAMES REPRESENTATIVE TO VETERANS ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY BODY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. (JTA)--The appointment of Lt. Col. Elliott A. Niles of Boston to represent B'nai B'rith on the National Advisory Committee of the Veterans Administration Voluntary Service, was announced here by Henry Monsky, president of the B'nai B'rith.

Col. Niles will serve on the committee with representatives of the Red Cross, USO, American Legion and other leading public service organizations currently active in behalf of hospitalized veterans throughout the nation.

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