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# JTA

## Daily News Bulletin

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### JEWISH AGENCY LEADERS MEET WITH BRITISH MINISTERS; DISCUSS LONG-TERM POLICY ON PALESTINE.

LONDON, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- The long-awaited talks between Zionist leaders and representatives of the British Government on the future status of Palestine started today. The Jewish Agency executive was represented by six members, while the British Government was represented at the meeting by Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin and Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech-Jones.

The Jewish delegates attending the meeting--which lasted for three hours--included David Ben Gurion, Moshe Shertok, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Professor Selig Brodetsky, Dr. Nahum Goldmann and Berl Locker. Earlier in the day, officials of the Colonial Office met independently with a delegation of the Agudat Israel.

An official communique issued by the Colonial Office following the meeting with the Jewish Agency leaders stated that "a general exchange of views took place on questions relating to the long-term policy on Palestine." The communique announced that further meetings would be held. Unofficial British circles disclosed that the leaders of the Jewish Agency presented "a strong statement of the Jewish point of view on the Palestine question."

The actual topics that were discussed at the meeting remained undisclosed. However, the composition of the Jewish delegation indicates that the talks were of great importance. It is understood that they centered around the question of creating conditions which would permit the Jewish Agency to participate in the Conference on Palestine now taking place here, in accordance with the decision of the World Zionist Congress, that such participation would be permitted only if the political situation, existent in December when the Congress met, changed.

### Conference on Palestine Resumes Today

The Conference on Palestine, between eight Arab delegations and the British Government, will be resumed tomorrow afternoon at the St. James Palace, having been postponed on Monday after a brief session. The Conference is expected to enter a new stage tomorrow when the Arab delegations hear Foreign Secretary Bevin give the British answer to the Arab proposals.

In British quarters it was predicted today that Bevin may suggest that the Arabs modify their proposals in order to meet Jewish objections. Should the Arab delegates agree to such a suggestion, the meeting will be adjourned to give the Arab representative time to make their modifications.

However, British circles foresee that the Arab delegates may declare that they will never discuss the Jewish demands and that they see no reason for prolongation of the Conference, preferring to submit the entire issue to the United Nations rather than continue discussion on the basis of Jewish counter-proposals. In this case, it is expected that Bevin will try to persuade them to remain in the Conference, since a breakdown in the discussions at this early stage would cause further damage to Britain's prestige in the Middle East.

**ALL CURFEWS IN PALESTINE LIFTED; GOVERNMENT EXTENDS DEADLINE ON MARTIAL LAW ULTIMATUM**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- All curfews throughout Palestine were lifted today. At the same time military preparations were made to implement the Palestine Government's ultimatum to Jewish leaders that certain areas of the country will be put under martial law if ex-Major E.I. Collins, kidnapped by extremists Sunday, is not released.

Although it was announced yesterday by a Jewish Agency spokesman and by the Irgun underground that Collins had been released simultaneously with Judge Ralph Windham, the whereabouts of the former remained a mystery today. Judge Windham, on the other hand, arrived in court this morning and immediately resumed his work. He was met by a cheering crowd as he entered the court building, and was greeted with flowers by the Jewish Bar Association.

Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv today told newsmen that the government has delayed imposing military control, apparently in the hope that Collins will appear. The ultimatum originally expired at 5 p.m. The new deadline was not announced. In the meantime, it was reported that a meeting of the highest officials of the Palestine Government, including the High Commissioner, took place today with General Sir Miles Dempsey, Commander-in-Chief of British Forces in the Middle East, and General Sir Evelyn Barker, Palestine Commander-in-Chief, at which the situation in the country was discussed.

Palestine police headquarters said tonight that they still had no confirmation of the Jewish announcement that Collins had been freed. His failure to appear gave rise to various rumors. One rumor had it that Collins died from wounds received when he was abducted; another said that he was too ill to be moved from the Irgun hideout; a third rumor asserted that he had been rushed by the British Authorities to a hospital.

**Gruner Agrees to Appeal to Privy Council for Clemency**

Dov Gruner, the Jewish extremist whose execution was postponed in order to give him an opportunity to appeal to the Privy Council, the highest appellate court in the British Commonwealth, tonight signed his application for an appeal, after refusing to do so yesterday. Menahem Beigin, "Commander-in-Chief" of the Irgun, tonight announced in a broadcast over the Irgun's secret radio that "the British shall pay sevenfold if Gruner is executed."

In his warning, Beigin said that the Irgun "will be merciless in retaliation for such premeditated murder." Comparing Jewish casualties with the British losses in Palestine last year, he declared: "The enemy counts his losses but did anybody count the Jewish losses--over 100 Jewish warriors of the Eganah, Irgun and the Stern Group, besides the hundreds who are suffering in Palestinian and in foreign prisons, and the hundreds of thousands who are suffering in camps. Europe's Jews have been exterminated not only by the Nazis, but also as a result of British policy."

**No Jews Detained in Two-Day Search in Petach-Tikvah**

Not a single Jew was detained in a two-day hunt for terrorists in Petach-Tikvah which was concluded today. In addition to searching every house in the township, the military and police forces also checked the hospitals and factories.

An official announcement today reported that a truck with clothing valued at \$40,000 was hijacked this afternoon near Athlith by four armed and masked men. The Jewish driver of the truck was found bound and gagged.