

Thursday, March 20, 1947

JTA**Daily News Bulletin**

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

FOREIGN OFFICE AND U.S. EMBASSY DISCUSSING FORM OF BRITISH BID TO U.N. ON PALESTINE

LONDON, Mar. 19. (JTA) -- The Foreign Office and the American Embassy here are conducting discussions on the terms of reference under which the Palestine issue will be placed before the United Nations, a Foreign Office spokesman revealed today. He said that the talks have so far been inconclusive.

(Replying to a query by the JTA, the State Department today said that it had no information concerning a meeting of British and American representatives to discuss the procedure for submitting the Palestine question to the U.N.)

The British spokesman said that immigration was not within the scope of the present discussions. He denied that Washington has made any new requests on immigration and reiterated that there was no intention of increasing the monthly quota for Jews.

Colonial Minister Arthur Creech Jones reported to the House of Commons today that 25 ships carrying visaless Jewish immigrants had arrived in Palestine waters since November, 1945, while one refugee vessel had been wrecked. He told a questioner that because the ships' documents were usually destroyed before their capture it was not always possible to check their right to fly the flag under which they sailed.

NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, REPORTEDLY LIE AIDE, CONFERS WITH SILVER ON PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Mar. 19. (JTA) -- Norwegian Foreign Minister Halvard M. Lenge, who is here reportedly to gather information on Palestine for United Nations Secretary-General Trygve Lie, today met with Dr. Abba Hillel Silver.

It was learned that their conversation dealt chiefly with the problem of immigration. Lenge said that the Norwegian Government has not yet decided what its position will be when the Palestine issue comes before the U.N. He disclosed that he will head his nation's delegation at Lake Success.

Reports received here from Cairo state that the Palestine Arab Higher Committee's attempt to secure representation at the U.N. at least in an "advisory" capacity to the Arab delegations has apparently been turned down by the Arab League Council, which is now in session. Following this defeat, the Higher Committee has decided to send its representatives to the next session of the General Assembly as "observers" with no official status. It is learned that the chief opposition to the Higher Committee's plans came from Egypt, Iraq and Transjordan, which are fighting the aspirations of the Hussein family, of which the ex-Mufti is the head.

The sub-committee of the Agency executive, consisting of Dr. Silver, Moshe Shertok and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, which was yesterday instructed to prepare a draft of the Agency position to be submitted to the U.N., did not complete their task last night. Today's session of the executive was devoted purely to budget matters.

Rumors are circulating here that the British Government may be considering withdrawing legal recognition from the Jewish Agency. It has been learned that at a meet-

and between British officials and Zionist leaders in London last month. Zionist Secretary Arthur Green Jones asked David Ben Gurion why the members of the Agency had been elected by the World Zionist Congress rather than by the Jewish Agency Council as provided by the Agency Constitution. (The Council consists of both Zionists and non-Zionists.) The British Government has also sent a letter to the Agency requesting the same information.

One Soldier Killed, Four Wounded in New Outbreak of Terror

One soldier was killed tonight and four seriously wounded when a landmine blew up a military jeep on a road near Zichron Yaacov, near Haifa.

It was reported here that Lt. Gen. G.H.A. MacMillan, military commander in Palestine, has already received the file on Moshe Barazani, Sternist, who was condemned Monday by a military court for possessing a hand grenade. Before the death sentence can be carried out it must be approved by Gen. MacMillan and High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham. Representatives of Jewish national institutions and the Chief Rabbinate are attempting to secure a reprieve.

Menahem Beigin, self-styled commander of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, tonight suggested a "plebiscite" among the Jews to decide the ways and means of conducting the fight to rid Palestine of "foreign rule." In a broadcast over the underground "Voice of Fighting Zion" radio, Beigin urged that every Jew be asked the question: "Are you in favor of an economic, political or military struggle to achieve an independent democratic Jewish state?"

The Palestine Government is offering rewards aggregating more than \$100,000 for the arrest of Beigin and 17 other men "wanted" as members of the Irgun or Stern Group. The rewards range from \$3,000-\$8,000, with the highest prize set on Beigin's head. Among the others included on the list are Nathan Friedman-Yellin, Sternist chief, and Isaac Yestemitsky, Sternist deputy chief.

Editors of the Hebrew press failed to agree on a common policy concerning the publication of government advertisements featuring the photographs and descriptions of the 18 men. The editors met to discuss a joint policy following threats from the Irgun that publication of the photographs and descriptions would be considered "cooperation with the authorities."

The press is under strong pressure from the government to print the advertisements. A representative of the government information office told the editors that it was their civic duty to comply with the government request. In 1942 all Hebrew newspapers were compelled to print similar "wanted" notices.

Only a few of the editors agreed to publish the photographs, others insisted that they would not do so unless they received orders from the government, while a third group refused categorically. All condemned the dissident groups and most of them expressed opinions similar to that of the Jewish national institutions which refused to "act as informers." The editors will meet again Friday.

PALESTINE JEWISH DELEGATION TO PAN-ASIATIC CONGRESS LEAVING FOR INDIA TODAY

JERUSALEM, Mar. 19. (JTA) -- The second part of the Palestinian Jewish delegation to the Pan-Asiatic Congress in New Delhi, India, will depart tomorrow. The Jewish delegation will present a report at the Congress illustrating Palestine's progress from a colonial to a national economy. The report will relate Jewish progress in the fields of hygiene, social work and fine arts. It will also deal with Zionism as a political movement and the position of women in the Jewish community.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE OPENS HEARING ON BILL TO BAN DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION

BOSTON, Mar. 25. (JTA)--An open hearing on a bill to set up a Fair Educational Practices Commission was held before a joint committee of the Massachusetts legislature yesterday. The measure would outlaw discriminatory practices in education on the basis of race, creed, color or national origin, and provides for punishment of offenders by the courts. Also under consideration at the hearing was a resolution calling for an investigating committee to decide whether discrimination in education exists.

Among those testifying was Theodore Leskes, of the Commission of Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress, who declared there was little doubt of the need for legislation and urged passage of the bill. He indicated that passage of the resolution would be acceptable as a first step in the right direction.

JEWISH SURVIVORS READJUSTING THEMSELVES TO LIFE IN POLAND, SAYS W.J.C. AIDE

NEW YORK, Mar. 25. (JTA)--Polish Jews are readjusting to life within the framework of the present Polish state since they cannot go on living from day to day waiting to emigrate, Dr. Jacob Hellman, Argentine representative of the World Jewish Congress, said today at a press conference here.

Recently returned from a trip through Europe, Dr. Hellman disclosed that of the 80,000 to 100,000 Jews who survive in Poland about 13% are working in cooperative under good conditions. The Polish Government, he said, has granted the Jewish community autonomy and is fighting anti-semitism.

Praising the Swedish Government for its financial and moral aid to Jewish refugees, he said that friction has developed between the 6,000 permanent Jewish residents of the country and the 8,000 refugees in Sweden.

ZOA TO ESTABLISH COLONY IN PALESTINE TO COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

NEW YORK, Mar. 25. (JTA)--The national executive of the Zionist Organization of America at a meeting today approved a plan for the establishment of a colony in Palestine to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the organization. A tract of land comprising 50,000 dunams (1,250 acres) will be redeemed within the next two years through the Jewish National Fund.

Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the ZOA Inner Committee reported that a national survey is shortly to be undertaken with the cooperation of leading educators to ascertain the best procedure to integrate Jewish youth into Zionist activities. Blaney Marks, executive director of the ZOA, reported a membership total of 250,000 toward the goal of 400,000 by the end of the fiscal year.

JOINT IRISH, JEWISH RALLY CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW AID FROM BRITAIN

NEW YORK, Mar. 25. (JTA)--The United States Government was called on to withdraw all aid to the British Government until it removed its "invasion forces in Ireland and Palestine" in a resolution adopted last night at a mass meeting here sponsored jointly by the Jewish War Veterans, the American League for a Free Palestine and the United Irish of America.

Speakers at the rally included William H. Ziff, co-chairman of the League; Rep. Andrew L. Somers of New York; Charles F. Connolly, editor of the Irish World; Sean McCarthy, executive secretary of the United Irish of America; T. Donohue, vice-president of the League; and Harry H. Urdang, past president of the New York Council for a Free Palestine.

Manchester and Leeds have tabled resolutions calling for abrogation of the White Paper. Three other branches are demanding surrender of the Palestine mandate to the U.N.

Zionists Will Seek Clarification of Issue at U.N.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, one of the seven-man delegation designated by the Jewish Agency to present the Zionist case at the U.N., arrived here today en route to the United States. He said that the main task of the Agency executive in the next few weeks will be to seek clarification of the situation at the U.N. and explore the Zionists' prospects. He stated that it was impossible to outline the Agency's plans now, because it is still not known what recommendations will be made by member states of the U.N.

In a written reply to Sir George Jeffreys, Conservative, who had urged the reimposition of martial law and collective fines in districts in Palestine where outbreaks occur, Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech-Jones said that it had never been expected that military action by itself would put an end to terrorism, although many terrorists had been apprehended. Future actions will be determined by events, he added.

ANTI-SEMITISM IS RAMPANT IN GERMANY, DP SPOKESMAN CHARGES; ASKS COUNTER-MEASURES

MUNICH, Mar. 26. (JTA) -- Anti-Semitism is rampant in the American zone of Germany and a program of counter-indoctrination of the German population must be instituted immediately, a spokesman for the Central Jewish Committee of Germany declared today. He asserted that the denazification laws intended to wipe out anti-Semitism had had little effect.

He announced that more than 132,000 displaced Jews, at 231 meetings throughout the U.S. zone of Germany, participated in Monday's demonstration to protest the fact that they are still behind barbed wire nearly two years after liberation. The spokesman said that further protest demonstrations would be held unless the plight of the DP's improved.

David Treger, chairman of the committee, commenting on the present DP situation, declared that it is "covered with a blanket of despair penetrated by occasional rays of light such as the report of the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee and the recent statement by President Truman." Treger insisted that the major demand of the Jews was liquidation of the DP camps. He termed the Palestine situation in reference to the displaced Jews "dark," asserting that the constant postponement of a decision was most disheartening to the Jews. He estimated that if all countries including Palestine were to open their doors to refugee immigration, about 95 percent of the Jewish DP's would choose Palestine.

Leon Retter, secretary of the committee, declared that the group deplores the fact that some displaced Jews take part in black market operations. However, he said that a serious shortage of food and consumer goods and a lack of a full employment program were chiefly responsible for this situation.

He pointed out that the Germans had all the farm produce and that if Jewish parents desired to obtain milk, eggs and fresh vegetables for their children, it was frequently necessary for them to enter the black market and obtain scarce commodities or goods which they bartered to the Germans. He said that he hoped the unemployment situation would shortly be relieved with the inauguration of a DP work program under the auspices of the U.S. Army, Jewish relief organizations, the central committee and UNRRA.

PRIVY COUNCIL REJECTS GRUNER APPEAL; DECISION RESTS WITH PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER

LONDON, Mar. 26. (JTA) -- The Privy Council, Britain's highest appellate court, today refused to hear a plea to set aside the death sentence imposed on Dov Gruner, Palestinian Jew, leaving the final decision on his execution in the hands of Palestine High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham.

The Council's Judicial Committee ruled that Frank Gruner of New York, uncle of the condemned Irgunist, who had requested permission to appeal, had no personal interest in the case and was therefore incompetent to file a plea. Constantine Gallop, defense counsel, argued that so important a matter should not be rejected because of a "narrow" interpretation of competence. He asserted that there might be highly important personal factors which kept Dov Gruner from appealing in his own behalf.

Gruner's Sister Appealing Today To Palestine Supreme Court

JERUSALEM, Mar. 26. (JTA) -- Attorneys for Mrs. Helen Friedman, sister of Dov Gruner, will appeal to the Palestine Supreme Court tomorrow to set aside his conviction and all other death sentences imposed subsequently on the grounds that the Palestine Government's emergency defense regulations conflict with the Mandate. If the Supreme Court rejects their motion, they will appeal to the Privy Council in behalf of Mrs. Friedman.

Troops guarding the four British "security zones" in Jerusalem were reinforced tonight. Although no official reason was given for the action, it is believed that the authorities expect new outbreaks of violence as a result of the Privy Council's ruling. All vehicles entering the guarded areas were carefully searched.

The Irgun Zvai Leumi, in a broadcast on the secret "Voice of Fighting Zion" station, denied rumors circulating here that it had declared a "truce" in its attacks on the British. "The fight will go on," the announcer declared. "As long as Britain does not cease fire, we will not cease." The broadcast called on British soldiers here "to sabotage their duties to save their lives."

The Palestine Government announced today that it has prohibited the circulation in the country of a pamphlet entitled "The Arab War Effort," issued by the American Christian Palestine Committee in New York. The pamphlet described the aid given the Axis by several of the Arab states.

NEW JEWISH SETTLEMENT ESTABLISHED IN PALESTINE BY AMERICAN ORGANIZATION

JERUSALEM, Mar. 26. (JTA) -- A new Jewish settlement, Kfar Bnei Zion, was established this morning at Giv'oth Reanana in the Sharon District. It adjoins the American colony of Reanana, founded more than twenty years ago by American Jews.

The new colony is located on Jewish National Fund land, purchased by the order of Bnei Zion of New York as part of a two-year drive by the Zionist Organization of America to obtain 12,500 acres. The colonists' chief occupation will be truck farming.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, who was the principal speaker at the inaugural ceremonies, said that "the time has not yet come to convert swords into ploughshares. We, like our forefathers, hold building tools in one hand and a sword in the other. But no power in the world can hold the flow of Jews coming to build up their ancient homeland."