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PALESTINE TENSE FOLLOWING EXECUTION OF GRUNER; BRITISH PREPARE FOR IRGUN RETALIATION

JERUSALEM, April 16. (JTA) -- Tension in Palestine reached the highest levels in years today as 100,000 British soldiers were alerted for possible retaliatory attacks following the execution in the pre-dawn hours this morning of Dov Gruner and three other Palestine Jews. The other three, also members of the Irgun, were Dov Rosenbaum, Eliezer Kashani and Mordechai Alkoshi.

More than half the Jewish population of the country was placed under virtual house arrest shortly after the executions as curfews were clamped down on Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Petach Tikvah, and non-military traffic was barred from all roads. It was reported in official circles that the government was prepared to reimpose martial law in any area where an attack broke out.

(In London it was reported that a broadcast on the Irgun's underground station, "Voice of Fighting Zion," in Jerusalem, threatened that "ten senior British officers will be hanged in the streets for every one of our martyrs murdered." Underground posters, threatening retaliation, hurriedly placed on walls in various Jewish cities were torn down by police and soldiers.)

Government Holds Emergency Session; Army Put on Wartime Basis

The Palestine Government Executive Council met in an emergency session at the summons of High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham. Besides civil officials, high army and police officials attended. Cunningham ordered the army to place all its personnel in Palestine "on active service." Army personnel were immediately ordered on a war-time basis, with full war-time punishments threatened for infractions of orders or neglect of duty.

New amendments to the Emergency Defense Regulations forbidding any appeal from the decision of military courts or the military commander were published in the Official Gazette. They provided that no court writ or any other manner of challenge could be made of any sentence, order or decision whether in cases tried before the amendments were published or afterwards. Referring to death sentences specifically, the amendments stated that all persons condemned shall be hanged and that the Palestine military commander shall set the place and time of all executions as well as assume responsibility for the custody of condemned persons until their execution.

Four Hanged Jews Buried in Safad Under Military Precautions

The four men were buried late this afternoon in the Safad Jewish cemetery. Some 200 persons attended including Mrs. Helen Friedman, Gruner's sister who flew from America in a vain attempt to save him, and the relatives of the other three men. Also present were members of the local community including the head of the community council and the rabbi.

The Jewish quarter of the city was cordoned off from early this morning until after the funeral, to prevent any sort of demonstration. Troops set up ma-

linegun nests on rooftops, in the streets and on hills overlooking the town. The bodies of Gruner and Rosenbaum were covered with bloodstains, apparently indicating that they did not go to their deaths quietly. Gruner is reported to have sung Hatikvah until the hangman's noose cut off his voice.

Only prison authorities and the district commissioner were present at the executions. Not even a rabbi was present and none of the next of kin were notified in advance so that they could take farewell of the men. Early this morning, the president of the Safad Jewish community was notified by the authorities to make arrangement for the burials.

Rabbinate Protests Absence of Rabbi at Executions

The official explanation for the fact that no rabbi was present at the hangings was that the prison chaplain had been invited but he refused to attend. Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog disputed this assertion, pointing out that the man referred to as chaplain was not a rabbi, but the only Jew in Acre, a merchant, who occasionally visited the jail to conduct services for prisoners. He added that he "strongly resented that no rabbi had been informed or the Chief Rabbinate asked to delegate a rabbi."

A twelve-year-old Jewish boy was mortally wounded tonight by a British patrol in the Zikhron Joseph quarter of Jerusalem. With the curfew imposed at 4 a.m. and in effect all day, Jews in the city, particularly in the slum areas were caught without food and many small children were today roaming the streets in search of food. The boy, Gedalia Ben Eliyahu, was among them.

The inhabitants of Jerusalem and the other cities under curfew were informed of the restrictions early this morning when armored cars with loudspeakers drove through the streets making the announcement. Military searches were carried out in this city, Haifa and Tel Aviv during the day.

Tel Aviv Mayor Interrupts Vacation; Is Shocked by Execution

Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv interrupted his vacation when he heard the news and rushed back to his city. He told newsmen that he was "shocked by the sudden execution," especially of Rosenbaum, Kashani and Alkoshi who, he said, "did nothing for which to be sentenced to death, only that they carried arms."

Alkoshi's mother suffered a heart attack when she was informed of her son's execution, but Kashani's father maintained an outward calm, declaring that his son would have wished him to act "in a manly" fashion. Mrs. Alkoshi was taken to a hospital.

Gruner's sister and Max Seligman, Gruner's lawyer, were granted permission last night to visit Gruner in prison this morning. When he was informed of the hangings, Seligman said: "It is un-English to execute men when their cases are before the Privy Council for decision. It is inhuman to invite me and Gruner's sister to come to Acre today, knowing that we would arrive after the execution."

It was learned today that the High Commissioner yesterday informed Dr. Chaim Weizmann that he would like to visit him in Rehovoth. Dr. Weizmann agreed, but in view of today's events it is doubtful that the visit will take place.

(As the Bulletin went to press it was reported that a quantity of dummy landmines had been scattered on one of Tel Aviv's main streets and that two vehicles, one military and one civilian, were afire in the city.)

BOMB FOUND IN COLONIAL OFFICE SEVERAL HOURS AFTER EXECUTION OF FOUR JEWS IN PALESTINE

LONDON, April 16. (JTA) -- Tight security measures were imposed around all government buildings tonight following the discovery of a home-made bomb in one of the Colonial Office buildings this morning, several hours after the execution of Dov Gruner and three other Jews in Palestine.

At 4 p.m. the War Office received a telephone warning that a bomb was about to go off in its building, but a search revealed nothing. It was disclosed that the Colonial, War and Foreign Offices have received a number of threats during the past few weeks.

The bomb, consisting of 26 sticks of explosives, was discovered in a ladies' room. Its fuse was partially burned. Although a Colonial Office spokesman said that the planting of the bomb looked like "more than coincidence," the fuse was set to go off about 1 a.m., shortly before the four Jews were hanged in the greatest secrecy.

High Scotland Yard officials called into the case have announced that they are seeking a woman who called at Dover House (the building in which the economic department of the Colonial Office is housed) yesterday afternoon and visited the ladies' room. She was carrying a parcel when she entered, but was seen to leave empty-handed. Although the police do not know of the presence of Sternists or Communists in England, they believe it possible that the bomb may have been planted by a "terrorist sympathizer."

JEWS ORGANIZATIONS IN NEW YORK TERM EXECUTIONS IN PALESTINE "BRITISH PROVOCATION"

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- Jewish groups here today condemned the British execution of Dov Gruner and three other Jews in Palestine and declared that they were a "deliberate provocation" by the British on the eve of the opening of the special session of the United Nations on the Palestine issue.

A spokesman for the Jewish Agency headquarters here said: "The killing of two Jewish refugees seeking entry into Palestine on the ship Theodore Herzl and the execution of Dov Gruner and three others today are new acts of cruelty which seem calculated to aggravate the already intolerable situation in Palestine. They furnish fresh evidence to the United Nations of the disastrous results which flow inevitably from the Mandatory's illegal policy in Palestine."

An impromptu protest meeting was held at the national headquarters of the Zionist Organization of America at which Dr. Sidne Marks, executive director, said that it is clear that the executions were intended to provoke outbreaks, with the aim of prejudicing the case of Jewish Palestine in the eyes of the membership of the United Nations." He added that "these illegal executions will have the very reverse effect upon public opinion of the world from that which was intended. They will arouse the revulsion of the civilized nations and unmask the ugly fact of British military rule in Palestine."

A week of mourning in memory of Gruner and his comrades was proclaimed by the Political Action Committee for Palestine. Joseph Clark Baldwin, administrative chairman, issued a call to Jews and non-Jews in the United States to observe the mourning week "in honor of these Jewish patriots who last night made the supreme sacrifice in the cause of liberty."

The American League for a Free Palestine issued a statement signed by its president, Guy M. Gillette, saying that "the British have destroyed any hope of United Nations settlement by spilling blood." The statement called upon the American public to "write finis to British terror and to British imperialism in Palestine."

U.N. SESSION ON PALESTINE CAN DECIDE ON HOLDING GENERAL DEBATE, TRYGVE LIE SAYS

LAKE SUCCESS, April 16. (JTA) -- The special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations which will open on April 28 to deal with the Palestine issue will have the right to decide whether a general debate on Palestine should precede the appointment of the fact-finding committee, U.N. Secretary General Trygve Lie told a press conference here today.

The General Assembly will be its own master, he said. It may decide to modify the provisional agenda set by the Secretariat, and agree on a general debate. On the other hand, it may strictly adhere to the provisional agenda and limit itself to the appointment of members of the fact-finding committee and give the latter a free hand in regulating the scope and the methods of its work.

There will be no ceremonial opening and it is not anticipated that President Truman will attend the opening meeting of the session, Mr. Lie declared. The total number of governments which approved the convening of the special session has now risen to thirty-five. There was no dissenting voice so far, Mr. Lie reported.

NEW IMMIGRANT SHIP REPORTED INTERCEPTED OFF PALESTINE; 1,600 REFUGEES DEPORTED

JERUSALEM, April 16. (JTA) -- Sixteen hundred Jewish refugees from the blockade runner Theodor Herzl were transhipped to Cyprus yesterday, the Palestine government officially announced today as reports were circulating here that another immigrant ship had been intercepted and was being towed to Haifa.

Because of the stringent curfew in effect, it was impossible to confirm the reports. The government announcement listed 848 men, 616 women and 136 children as having been deported. It also stated that six British sailors received minor injuries in battling their way aboard the Herzl.

U.S. ARMY TO HALT AID TO REFUGEES ENTERING GERMANY FROM EASTERN EUROPE

FRANKFURT, April 16. (JTA) -- The U.S. Army will halt its aid to infiltrees arriving in the American zone of Germany from Eastern European countries after April 1, Gen. Lucius D. Clay, American commander in Germany, announced today.

Refugees who arrive after next Monday will not be admitted to DP camps, except in cases involving hardship. The announcement, however, stressed that the borders of the American zone were not being closed to infiltrees. If they come, they must live off the German economy.

Gen. Clay said that the order did not mean that the American zone had ceased to offer haven to refugees, but that the Army was attempting to "stabilize" the DP population in preparation for the International Refugee Organization's assumption of responsibility for them after July 1.

SECOND MEETING OF I.R.O. PREPARATORY COMMISSION TO OPEN IN GENEVA MAY 1

GENEVA, April 16. (JTA) -- The second meeting of the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization will open here May 1, it was officially announced today.

JISH WELFARE FUNDS WILL EXCEED RECORD SUMS OF LAST YEAR, CJFWF SURVEY REVEALS

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- The Jewish welfare funds of America will raise substantially more this year for overseas, national and local needs than the record of 1946. This is the conclusion reached by the Council of Jewish Federations Welfare Funds as a result of a poll just made of a cross-section of member communities throughout the country.

The sampling reveals total goals 65 percent greater than last year for all purposes. The first special gift meetings indicate that the goals will be obtained. Buffalo reports 75 percent increases; Detroit, 78 percent; Kansas City, 100 percent; Milwaukee, 87 percent; Peoria, 100 percent; St. Louis, 50 to 75 percent; and Watertown, 100 percent. This is in line with the pace set by the special gifts meetings of the national United Jewish Appeal in Hollywood Beach and Washington, and the early returns from all communities.

A question which was uppermost in the minds of community leaders when they met at the national UJA conference in November, and even at the Council's General Assembly, two months later - last year's pledge of one-time giving - seems to be fading as a threat, thanks to a careful and reasoned stating of the facts, the communities report. At worst, the reaction is a spotty one, raised here and there informally by "Big Gifts" prospects. These objections, according to campaign leaders, are usually withdrawn after a frank discussion of the problems created by the failure and/or inability of governments to meet their obligations to Jewish war victims, the tremendous increase in the number of Jewish DP's, the sharp curtailment and imminent stoppage of all UNRRA activities.

Though cautiously optimistic, many top leaders and givers believe that "the money is here and the community can meet its goals." Some report that "business conditions this year are certainly as good as in 1946 and in some respects better." According to the sample, many more communities will initiate Christian campaigns this year, with non-Jewish leaders taking direct responsibility for these efforts, and with greater selectivity of prospects.

BILL TO PROHIBIT RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

WASHINGTON, April 16. (JTA) -- Jacob Javits, Republican of New York, introduced in the House a bill "to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, religion, color, national origin or ancestry."

The bill is identical with one introduced in the Senate recently by Sen. Ives and seven other Senators and with House measures introduced by Reps. Mary T. Norton, of New Jersey, Helen Cahagan Douglas of California, William Dawson of Illinois, Democrats, and James G. Fulton, Republican of Pennsylvania. It has been referred to the Committee on Education and Labor.

FIRST JEWISH NATIONAL FUND CONFERENCE IN POLAND SINCE OUTBREAK OF WAR HELD IN LODZ

LODZ, April 16. (JTA) -- The first conference of the Jewish National Fund of Poland since the beginning of the war concluded here. About 100 delegates from 40 towns throughout Poland attended and representatives of the headquarters of the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem also participated.

A two-day conference of delegates representing Warsaw's Jewish survivors now spread throughout the country will take place in the capital city next week. It will coincide with the fourth anniversary of the observance of the revolt of the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto. Federations of Polish Jews in the United States, Canada, Argentina and Palestine have been asked to send representatives to the conference.

AMBASSADOR CONFERS HONORARY MEMBERSHIP IN CENTRAL JEWISH BODY OF POLAND UPON WARBURG

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- Expressing the gratitude of Polish Jewry for re- assistance provided by the Joint Distribution Committee, Joseph Winiewicz, Polish Ambassador in Washington, acting in behalf of the Central Committee of Polish Jews, today conferred honorary membership in that organization upon Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the J.D.C.

In a ceremony at the Polish Consulate in New York, Mr. Winiewicz and Jan Winiewicz, Consul, presented Mr. Warburg with a scroll of honor signed by the officers of the Central Committee, the coordinating body of the Polish Jewish community.

Declaring that he considered the honor bestowed upon him a tribute to the organization which he heads rather than a personal award, Mr. Warburg said that the J.D.C. looks forward to a continuing cooperative effort with the Central Committee of Polish Jews in its efforts to alleviate suffering and repair the ravages of war and Nazi persecution. "American Jewry, through the Joint Distribution Committee," he declared, "will continue, to the best of its ability, to extend humanitarian aid and assistance in the Central Committee's reconstruction effort."

In a brief address, Mr. Winiewicz outlined the progress of Polish Jewry in the re-establishment of economic, cultural and religious life since the end of hostilities. "Jews work in factories and mines, in offices and on the farms," he reported. Jewish settlements in the territory of Lower Silesia in Western Poland are making excellent progress in all fields of their activities." This progress has been accelerated, he pointed out, by relief assistance of the Joint Distribution Committee.

MUEL HABER APPOINTED NEW J.D.C. DIRECTOR IN U.S. ZONE OF GERMANY

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- Samuel L. Haber, former military government officer in Germany, today flew to assume direction of the Joint Distribution Committee's staff of 250 in the American zone of Germany. While serving as a major in the Wehrmacht in the Rhineland and Wurtemberg areas last year, Haber was instrumental in recovering documents, correspondence and books belonging to Dr. Alfred Rosenberg, Nazi racial theoretician.

B. SEAMEN DEPORTED FROM PALESTINE FOR AIDING "ILLEGAL" IMMIGRATION ARRIVE IN N.Y.

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- Twenty American seamen who were arrested in Palestine and later deported by the British authorities for helping "illegal" immigration of displaced Jews arrived here today aboard the S.S. Marine Carp. They formed part of the crew of the blockade runner "Ben Hecht" which was intercepted by British naval forces on March 8 as it approached the Palestine shore. The ship was owned by the American League for a Free Palestine.

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS TO BE HELD IN MONTREAL

CINCINNATI, April 16. (JTA) -- The 58th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis will be held in Montreal, Canada, from June 24th, through June 29th, it was announced by Rabbi Isaac E. Marcuson, administrative secretary of the Central Conference. This year's conference in Montreal will mark the second time in the history of the organization, which was founded in 1889 by Dr. Isaac M. Wise, that the convention has been held outside of the United States. It was previously held in Montreal fifty years ago.