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U.N. SESSION CLOSURES AFTER APPROVING INQUIRY BODY'S INSTRUCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

FLUSHING MEADOWS, May 15. (JTA)--The historic special session of the United Nations on Palestine ended at 1:58 this afternoon in an aura of good-will, as the 55-nation Assembly, with only the Middle East states and Afghanistan in opposition, approved the terms of reference and the composition of the inquiry committee, which it is hoped will recommend a final solution of the age-old problem.

Last minute efforts were made by Poland and Argentina to have the Big Five and one Arab country included in the inquiry commission, but they were unsuccessful. Asaf Ali, the Indian delegate, who was among those who eventually voted for the terms of reference, earlier spoke against them and warned that they might precipitate Arab disturbances in Palestine and lead to a third world war.

The Assembly adopted a resolution proposed by Norway, calling upon all governments and peoples, particularly the inhabitants of Palestine, to refrain from "the threat or use of force or any other action," pending a decision by the Assembly in September.

Probers Will Hold First Meeting At Lake Success On May 26

It was officially announced by the U.N. Secretariat that the inquiry commission will hold its first meeting on May 26 at Lake Success, at which time it will draft a program of work. It will then leave for Palestine, and probably go to Europe later. It was doubted whether the commission will hold hearings in the U.S. prior to its return from Palestine and Europe, but the commission has a free hand in deciding its procedure.

The vote on the resolution as a whole was 46 to 7 with one abstention and one absence. Voting against it were the Arab countries, Afghanistan and Turkey with Siam abstaining. The Arab delegates also refused to agree to an interim truce in Palestine while the inquiry commission is studying the problem on the spot, and were the only ones to abstain from voting on the Norwegian resolution.

The Soviet bloc joined the Arabs in abstaining from voting on the composition of the inquiry commission when it was taken to a separate vote this morning, but did not vote against it despite the fact that at the Political Committee the Soviet bloc cast a negative vote on the resolution to form an eleven-man commission without the Big Five. Also abstaining from voting were Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia who are among the eleven members of the commission.

The session concluded with a speech by Assembly President Aranha, who declared that a solution of the Palestine problem was the most decisive test yet put to the U.N. He urged the inquiry committee to be guided not merely by the letter of their instructions, but according to the complexity of the problem.

5/16/47

U.S. GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD PALESTINE PROBLEM

FLUSHING MEADOWS, May 15. (JTA)--A forthright statement that the United States Government is prepared to assume its responsibilities toward Palestine was made here today by members of the American delegation following the close of the special session of the U.N. General Assembly.

"We recognize that we have responsibilities in Palestine," a spokesman for the delegation said. He emphasized that the U.S. Government will be ready to present its views on the Palestine issue to the U.N. inquiry commission, if invited to do so, but added that it cannot be revealed as yet whether the U.S. recommendation on the ultimate solution of the Palestine problem will be made at that time or at the Assembly in September.

Senator Austin, commenting on the Soviet attitude toward the Palestine problem, termed it "conciliatory." Members of the British delegation said that they are "pleased" with the outcome of the present session, while the Arabs refused to comment.

Emphasizing that the Jews will definitely cooperate with the inquiry commission, a leading member of the Jewish Agency delegation said that the present session brought the Jews "a few pleasant surprises," outstanding among which was the final attitude of the Soviet delegation. Everything now depends on the attitude with which the inquiry is conducted, he added.

The Agency issued a statement expressing the hope that the U.N. will "restore the rights of the Jewish people and enable them to bring their historic undertaking in Palestine to a speedy and successful consummation." It pointed out that the U.N. discussions had highlighted the international character of the "twin problems of Palestine and the Jewish people."

Asserting that the admission of the Agency to the Political Committee was a source of satisfaction to the Jews, it stressed that the inability of the Agency to participate in the General Assembly discussions resulted in "the presentation of a one-sided picture" by the Arab states and reminded the world of the "ancient position" of the Jews. The Agency also thanked the delegates for their efforts and attention to the problem and expressed "particular appreciation" to Assembly President Oswaldo Aranha and Political Committee chairman Lester Pearson, as well as Secretary-General Trygve Lie and his staff.

TRUMAN SAYS HE DOES NOT PLAN TO ASK CONGRESS TO PASS BILL PROVIDING FOR ENTRY OF DP'S

WASHINGTON, May 15. (JTA)--President Truman said today that he did not plan to send a message to Congress urging passage of the Stratton Bill, which calls for the admittance of 400,000 displaced persons to this country during a period of four years, utilizing unused war-time quotas.

The President told his press conference that he could make no estimates on how many displaced persons this country could absorb. The State Department, he said, has been working on plans to use the lapsed quotas for this purpose but that results have not been very satisfactory.

He pointed out that the displaced persons question is an international problem in which the United States must do its share. He added that it was his belief that legislation will be necessary to accomplish this end. (See earlier story on page 5.)

AGENCY HAILS GROMYKO STATEMENT; PALESTINE PAPER CALLS IT "SOVIET BALFOUR DECLARATION"

JERUSALEM, May 15. (JTA)--The Jewish Agency today gave voice to the gratification of Palestine Jewry at Soviet delegate Andrei Gromyko's demand in the U.N. yesterday for the establishment in Palestine of separate Jewish and Arab states, if bi-nationalism proved to be unacceptable to both peoples.

"Gromyko's speech caused great satisfaction and gratification to world Jewry and the Palestine Jewish community and to the Jewish Agency," an Agency spokesman stated. "It is obviously an event of extraordinary importance when one of the three major powers makes a public declaration in which a number of basic principles guiding us in our analysis of the Jewish position and our work are accepted and underlined," he continued. "It is of extreme importance that the USSR's representative should underline the historical connection between our people and this country."

Echoing the opinion of the man in the street, the Hebrew press expressed similar sentiments. Mishmar, organ of the Hashomer Hatzair Party, which together with the Ichud group headed by Dr. Judah Magnes, are the chief proponents of bi-nationalism within the Jewish community, termed the speech an "historic declaration which will be entered as such in the annals of Jewish and world history."

Referring to it as the "Soviet Balfour Declaration," the newspaper said: "At a time when the successors of (Lord) Balfour and (Woodrow) Wilson are selling out the right of refuge of the Jewish people to Arab reaction for oil, one of the most powerful factors in the world came to the defense of the Jewish people. The Soviets now support the fundamental principles on which our liberation movement is built."

"We are gratified that Russia and, with her, all progressive forces in the world, demand that an Arab-Jewish agreement be fostered and that in any case the right of the Jewish people to national independence be safeguarded. We feel that this a declaration of principles not motivated by a desire for tactical advantages."

Davar, organ of the Histadruth, declared that "Russia's lifting of its boycott of Zionism" will, in effect, "undermine Britain's position in the Middle East." It asserted that Gromyko cut the ground out from under the British Labor Party's policy of intimidating British public opinion with the threat that if the government granted the Jewish demands the Arabs would rush into the arms of the Soviet Union.

Haaretz, conservative newspaper which usually speaks for the General Zionists, also pointed out that "Gromyko's historic speech will undermine the basis on which the experts of the British Foreign Office build their Middle East and Palestine policies"--"appeasement of the Arabs at Jewish expense in order to prevent the Arabs from joining Russia against the Western powers. Now, this basis is devoid of value," it concluded.

STERNISTS BLAST PALESTINE RAIL LINES AS IRGUN DECLARES TRUCE PENDING U.N. DECISION

JERUSALEM, May 15. (JTA)--While the Irgun today announced cessation of terrorist activities in favor of "political work" until Palestine's political status has been clarified, the Stern Group last night and this morning blasted three rail-

and bridges and two trains and planted mines in various sections of the rail system between central and northern Palestine, forcing discontinuance of rail service in the northern part of the country, and causing damage estimated at \$40,000.

The Irgun announcement followed disclosure yesterday that the underground organization had sent a memorandum to member states of the U.N. appealing for a Jewish state. The announcement and the explosions came a few hours after the introduction of a Norwegian resolution at the United Nations General Assembly session calling for a truce in the Holy Land during the investigations of the inquiry committee and until the U.N. had ruled on the country's status.

Two British lieutenants were killed and two other officers and a soldier were seriously injured this morning when a landmine which they were attempting to dismantle exploded. The blast occurred on the Haifa-Acre rail line, near the latter city.

Mine Blows Up Train Carrying 800; Only One Injured

One person was injured when a mine blew up under a special train transporting 800 workers to a military camp near Haifa. The engine and two cars were derailed and about 100 feet of track was torn up by the explosion which took place near Bat Galim, on the outskirts of Jaffa. An engineer of a freight train was hurt slightly when it was derailed near Rehovoth.

It was revealed this morning that three rail bridges were severely damaged in the Hadera area last night by landmines. A fourth bridge in the same vicinity was also mined, but the explosives failed to detonate. A number of mines were found near Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and were removed by British engineer troops. Railway officials hope to be able to resume service late tonight, following clearing of wrecks and extensive repair work.

Jerusalem had a false alarm this morning which threw British troops into an uproar. A general alarm was sounded and hurriedly mustered troops in armored cars surrounded an Arab cemetery near the King David Hotel following a minor explosion. Investigation revealed that several Arab children had discovered a parachute flare and were playing with it when it exploded. Miraculously, none of the children were injured by the flare or by shots fired at them by the soldiers. Some observers believe that the flare was hidden in the graveyard by Arab extremists.

Permanent Military Courts Set Up In Jerusalem And Haifa

An official communique announced the establishment of permanent military courts in the Jerusalem, Haifa and Lydda districts to deal with a variety of minor violations of the Emergency Defense Regulations. The courts, which will be opened Monday, will have the power of imposing fines up to \$800 and prison sentences up to two years. The communique pointed out that they are not intended to replace either the normal jurisdiction of civil courts or of higher military courts, some of which have the power of imposing death sentences.

Infractions on which the new summary courts will rule include underground publication of political matter, breaking of curfews, interference with the police, misleading acts or misrepresentation involving the police forces, obtaining and recording of government or military documents and possession of information concerning illegal arms or explosives. Also subornation of policemen, use of propaganda prejudicial to public safety or maintenance of order, dealing in arms belonging to the military or police forces, unlawful escape from custody, intimidation of police or troops and possession or control of radio transmission facilities.

5/16/47

LESS IRO BEGINS FUNCTIONING JULY 1, ARMY WILL HAVE TO CLOSE DP CAMPS, HOUSE BODY TOLD

WASHINGTON, May 15. (JTA)--If the International Refugee Organization does not begin functioning by July 1, the military government in Germany will have little choice but to close the displaced persons camps and declare the residents to be members of the German or Austrian communities, Assistant Secretary of State John Hildring told a House sub-committee which opened hearings this morning on the resolution to permit U.S. participation in the I.R.O.

He said he relied on the judgement of Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, special advisor on Jewish problems to the American military governor, who reported that the Jewish DP's "almost to a man" want to go to Palestine. The 250,000 Jewish DP's in Germany, Austria and Italy represent 20 to 25 percent of the total number of DP's in Europe, he said, and it would help if they could be allowed to go to Palestine.

There is great discontent among the displaced persons, he said, because of their long wait to find new homes where they can begin life anew. In answer to a question of Rep. Frances P. Bolton, Ohio Republican, as to whether this was partly a reflection of the German and Austrian peoples' wish to be rid of them, Hildring said "there isn't any doubt of it."

State Dept. To Announce Number of DP's It Thinks Should Be Admitted To U.S.

Mrs. Bolton then asked Hildring what figure the State Department had in mind as to the appropriate number of displaced persons to be admitted to the United States. Hildring said the figure had not yet been cleared with President Truman but that it might be within the next few days.

In response to intensive questioning by sub-committee member Jacob Javits, New York Republican, Hildring pointed out:

Participation in the I.R.O. would not eliminate our responsibility toward resolution of the refugee problem, but it would put proper emphasis on the fact that the whole question is a matter of international responsibility and one which can only be solved by all countries opening their doors to resettlement.

U.S. officials are satisfied that some 100,000 Polish DP's, mostly Jews, who fled into the American zone since the liberation, were "legitimately fleeing because of fear." It is "unrealistic now to criticize the officials who operated on that theory," he said.

He saw no commitment "moral or otherwise" to change our immigration laws should we join the I.R.O. As a matter of fact, he said, it would tend to reduce the pressures now exerted on us to take some of the refugees.

The administration has proposed two amendments to the I.R.O. resolution. One would authorize the War Department to retain certain personnel, now engaged in DP work, until such time as I.R.O. can assume full responsibility. These workers, who might be retained for a maximum of six months, would be paid out of I.R.O. funds.

Another amendment would approve the functioning of the I.R.O. Preparatory Commission in the event that not enough countries had signed and ratified the charter by July 1 to permit operation of the I.R.O. In terms of the amendment, Congress would authorize that funds designated to go to the I.R.O. would go to the Preparatory Commission during the interim period.

IRA HEAD DENIES ORGANIZATION IS AIDING PALESTINE-BOUND DP'S TO REACH ITALY

WASHINGTON, May 15. (JTA)--UNRRA officials are still awaiting a reply from the British Government to assurances made by UNRRA that the organization is not doing in the alleged illegal immigration of Jewish displaced persons through Italy.

In a statement to the press today Major General Lowell W. Rooks, UNRRA sector general, said that on April 7 officials of the British Government in London had discussed with UNRRA representatives the problem of movement of DP's into Italy from central European countries. At that time, Rooks pointed out, the British took the view that this immigration had been wittingly or unwittingly aided by UNRRA workers.

UNRRA then informed the British that it "would be grateful for any evidence or assistance given by its representatives in encouraging the movement of illegal immigrants," and they are still waiting for a reply, Rooks said. Should there be any indication of "improper activities" on the part of the UNRRA staff, "appropriate action will be taken," he said. The British Government was also advised, he added, that UNRRA would cooperate by informing the proper Italian authorities of any displaced persons arriving at camps without the necessary entry papers.

(The Manchester Guardian, in a Berlin dispatch today, says that there is considerable controversy in the British zone as to what will happen to the DP's when UNRRA expires. Citing reports that UNRRA has failed to check the progress through Central Europe of Palestine-bound refugees, the dispatch says that the British Control Commission is considering assuming jurisdiction over the refugees after June 30. A similar report was carried in this morning's New York Times.)

CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OPPOSES GROUP LIBEL LAWS IN TESTIMONY BEFORE CIVIL RIGHTS BODY

WASHINGTON, May 15. (JTA)--Osmond K. Fraenkel, representing the American Civil Liberties Union, told the President's Committee on Civil Rights today that he had "never been much in favor of group libel laws." Asked by committee member Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn to give his views on the group libel law proposal which, he said, had been the subject of conflicting testimony on the part of other witnesses, Fraenkel replied that he was "afraid of them. They might prove boomerangs."

250 THREATENING LETTERS RECEIVED BY JEWS AND ANTI-FASCISTS IN LONDON, POLICE REVEAL

LONDON, May 15. (JTA)--Jews and anti-fascists in North London have received more than 250 threatening letters in recent weeks, Scotland Yard disclosed, following the announcement yesterday that a letter signed "K.K.K." had been received by Barbara Ayrton Gould, pro-Zionist Labor M.P., who represents a North London constituency. Mrs. Gould has demanded an official investigation of "these fascist activities, which are too serious to be dismissed as the work of irresponsible youths."

PRO-NAZI SLOVAK MINISTER GETS 30-YEAR TERM; DIRECTED DEPORTATION OF JEWS TO DEATH CAMPS

PRAGUE, May 15. (JTA)--Sano Mach, former Minister of the Interior in the Nazi-controlled puppet state of Slovakia was today sentenced to 30 years imprisonment by a Czechoslovak court in Bratislava.

Tens of thousands of Slovakian Jews were deported to death camps under Mach's direction. He was also responsible for the enforcement of anti-Jewish legislation. Mach was tried on charges of collaboration together with former Premier Josef Tiso, who was hanged.

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