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# JTA

## Daily News Bulletin

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### U.N. INQUIRY COMMISSION ON PALESTINE STARTS MEETING ON MONDAY; OPEN SESSIONS SCHEDULED

LAKE SUCCESS, May 23. (JTA) -- The first meeting of the U.N. inquiry commission on Palestine will be opened Monday afternoon by Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations, it was announced here today. It will be open to the press.

The committee will have to decide on whether to hold hearings at Lake Success prior to its departure for Palestine; also, whether the entire eleven-member group should visit the camps for displaced Jews in Europe, or should send a sub-committee.

En route to Palestine, the commission will pass through Geneva on June 6, to pick up some members of its staff, it was learned. It is possible that it may also choose Geneva as the place in which to draft its report following its return from Palestine.

(A cable from Jerusalem reports that Sir Henry L. Gurney, Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government, and Lt. Gen. Gordon H.A. MacMillan, British military commander there, will be the principal witnesses to testify before the U.N. inquiry commission, at a secret session.

(The government is making arrangements to accommodate the fact-finders either at the YMCA or the Victoria Augusta Hospice, on Mt. Scopus, which is presently serving as the 16th Military Hospital. The authorities will make a fleet of 24 large and three small cars available to the commission.)

Seven of the 11 members of the inquiry group have already communicated the names of their representatives on the committee and alternates to the Secretary-General. They are: Australia, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, India, Iran, Netherlands and Peru. The names of the representatives from Sweden, Canada, Uruguay and Yugoslavia are expected to reach the secretariat during the week-end.

### BRITISH INTERCEPT PALESTINE-BOUND BLOCKADE RUNNER WITH 1,500 JEWS. MEET NO RESISTANCE

HAIFA, May 23. (JTA) -- A British naval patrol today intercepted another Jewish refugee ship off the coast of Palestine. It is believed that there are 1,500 men, women and children aboard.

Seamen boarding the vessel encountered no resistance. The 300-ton craft, Mordel Hagetaot (Ghetto Fighters), is being escorted into Haifa and should arrive early tomorrow.

The Arab press reports that the facilities for immigrants at the Athlit clearance camp are being enlarged to accommodate refugees from Cyprus. The camps on the island, built for 10,000 people, have been overcrowded for several months.

ARABS AND JEWS CLASH FOLLOWING HAGANAH ATTACK ON ROBBER BAND; AGENCY HITS POLICE INACTION

JERUSALEM, May 23. (JTA) -- Several isolated clashes between Arabs and Jews occurred last night and today in what is believed to be retaliation for the Haganah attack on Arab robber bands earlier in the week.

A band of Arabs attacked the Belkind House, named after a Jewish pioneer, near Zichron Jacob, after midnight yesterday, but were repulsed by Jewish guards, who are reported to have inflicted injuries on the attackers. A Jewish labor camp near Gaza was raided about the same time and one laborer injured. There were also several incidents of Arabs stoning Jews in cafes.

Two loud explosions rocked Jaffa this afternoon, and police said they believed Arab underground armories had blown up. A mine of unknown origin exploded near Acre last night when an Arab shepherd threw a rock at it. The shepherd was wounded.

Commenting on the Haganah attack, a Jewish Agency spokesman said yesterday that the leader of the raid was not killed by a stray shot from his own men as has been reported, but by an Arab when he walked into the cafe where the incident occurred and ordered those present to raise their hands until the brigands could be picked out. The spokesman said that while the Agency appreciated the dangers of precipitating Arab-Jewish strife, it could not allow attacks on Jews to continue, without encouraging Arab robbers and extremists to think that they could repeat the 1936 excesses without fear.

He pointed out further that the Arab population had suffered even more than the Jews from the depredations of the Arab bands, citing figures for April which revealed that 24 Arabs and two Jews were killed by the marauders and 24 Arabs and five Jews robbed. The spokesman stressed that the police had taken no action to curb the bandits and charged that the authorities were extremely lenient with Arabs caught with arms in their possession. He asserted that one-day sentences had been imposed on Arabs carrying revolvers or rifles.

12 JEWS ARRESTED FOLLOWING DISCOVERY OF EXPLOSIVES IN REVISIONIST COLONY NEAR HAIFA

JERUSALEM, May 23. (JTA) -- Twelve Jews were arrested and detained at the Ma'atran camp today following the discovery of a quantity of explosives at the Shouni colony, between Benjamina and Haifa.

The police cordoned off the area and screened 53 persons in the Revisionist settlement. They discovered 72 sticks of gelignite, seven mines and various other material used in the manufacture of bombs and landmines.

Dov Zmidak, 21, went on trial in Tel Aviv today on charges of possessing a revolver and standing guard over the abducted drivers of three military trucks stolen in the city April 21. Zmidak denied the charges, asserting that he was in a crowd of people when shooting broke out and that he was wounded. When he was being carried away in a stretcher, the police tossed a gun into it, he declared. A verdict is expected next week.

PALESTINE JEWISH ASSEMBLY CHOOSES NEW NATIONAL COUNCIL WITH LABOR MAJORITY

JERUSALEM, May 23. (JTA) -- The new Vaad Leumi (Jewish National Council) elected last night by the closing session of the Assefath Haniivcharim (Jewish National Assembly) consists of the following representatives: 15 from the Mapai; five from the Yemina L'Achdut Avoda; four from the Hashomer Hatzair; six from the Mizrahi; four Aliya Nadasah; two General Zionists and several representing minority parties.

10. VOTES TO ESTABLISH WORLD-WIDE TRACING BUREAU TO LOCATE MISSING REFUGEES AND DP'S

LAUSANNE, May 23. (JTA) -- Establishment by the International Refugee Organization of a Central Tracing Bureau, charged with seeking the hundreds of thousands of displaced persons and refugees who have disappeared, was given first priority by the IRO Preparatory Commission, which concluded its second session here this

Arthur J. Altmeyer, executive secretary of the Commission, was directed to take steps to set up the bureau as soon as possible and to confer with the International Red Cross and governmental authorities for cooperation. All governments concerned will be asked to submit lists of names, with particulars, of persons to be traced, and countries where tracing operations are to be carried out will be called upon to cooperate. Zonal tracing services now operating in Germany and Austria will be maintained.

It was announced yesterday that the Commission has approved a budget of \$2,045,000 for the first operational year, beginning July 1. This represents 75 percent of the original estimated budget. However, if the necessary sums are forthcoming from member nations, the full budget will be put into effect. An administrative budget of \$4,800,000 was approved, with the understanding that it would be operated on a 75 percent basis until sufficient funds were available.

Altmeyer was authorized to call on U.S. Secretary-General Trygve Lie for an advance from the U.N. working capital fund to finance July operations, if contributions from IRO members are not forthcoming by them.

16 REFUGEES ARRIVE FROM GERMANY ON TWO VESSELS; 38 WAR ORPHANS AMONG IMMIGRANTS

NEW YORK, May 23. (JTA) -- Two hundred and forty-three refugees, including 38 war orphans, arrived here today from Bremerhaven aboard the Ernie Pyle. Another group of 23 Jewish war orphans arrived from Naples on the Marine Perch.

The latter group are teen-agers who escaped Nazi death camps and found sanctuary in Italy during the war. Both groups were met by representatives of the United Service for New Americans.

JAMES MACDONALD AND LADY ASTOR DUEL ON PALESTINE AS QUEEN ELIZABETH ARRIVES

NEW YORK, May 23. (JTA) -- James G. MacDonald, former member of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine, and American-born Lady Astor engaged in an unscheduled verbal duel on the Holy Land today while being interviewed aboard the Queen Elizabeth.

MacDonald, who was returning from Palestine where he participated in groundbreaking ceremonies for the Hebrew University Medical School, criticized British policy and hailed Jewish developments there. Lady Astor interjected that MacDonald was anti-British, and asked why the U.S. will not admit Jews. She added that "Jewish gangsters" in Palestine were injuring the cause of Jews everywhere and also said that "the Jews ought to stay put in Germany." They both agreed, however, that if repatriation was the only solution, they were for it.

JUDGE EMPHASIZES NEED FOR GROUP LIBEL LEGISLATION TO CHECK ANTI-SEMITES

NEW YORK, May 23. (JTA) -- The need for "intelligent, carefully considered group legislation in order to combat the threat of racism" was emphasized yesterday by U.S. District Court Judge Vincent L. Leibell in freeing William Hunt Diedrich, internationally recognized sculptor, who was arrested on a charge of improper use of the mail for distribution of anti-Semitic material. Leibell pointed out that Diedrich's attacks were made against the Jewish people as a group, rather than against individuals and that there was no law against group libel.

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WESTERN COUNTRIES HIT CHARGES THAT JEWS ARE FLEEING TO AUSTRIA TO ESCAPE POGROMS

VIENNA, May 23. (JTA) -- The Austrian Government has received indications that it can expect protests from Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania and Yugoslavia as a result of a statement by Minister of the Interior Oskar Hellmer that Jews were fleeing those countries in fear of pogroms.

Hellmer's statement was made in connection with the incident on the Austrian-Hungarian border where a group of Jews seeking to reach DP camps in the western zones were shuttled back and forth across the frontier for four days when Soviet occupation authorities refused to allow them to proceed. The Austrian Government has submitted a report on the incident to American military authorities here.

The Red Army newspaper in Austria, Der Oestreichische Zeitung, today carries a statement prepared by the Austrian Jewish News, many of whose staff members are Communists, declaring that officials of the Bulgarian, Rumanian, Hungarian and Yugoslav missions in Austria have denied that there have been any pogroms in their countries, adding that they were unaware of any large-scale flight of Jews from those nations to the west. The Communist Party newspaper, Volkstimme, attacks Hellmer for his "wrong statements."

The Socialist Party organ, Arbeiterzeitung, however, publishes a lengthy report of the border incident and also an interview with a Rumanian Jewish refugee, who asserted that there was increasing fear among Rumanian Jews. Similar statements were received by Austrian border guards. The refugees said that although the Rumanian Government seeks to guarantee equality for the Jews, anti-Semitic propaganda is still widespread and anti-Jewish incidents have occurred in Jassy, Baku and other parts of Moldavia. Agitators used the famine in that district to whip up sentiment against the Jews.

One Rumanian refugee, Moische Rosenbaum, to whom this correspondent spoke, also reported that in recent weeks there have been incidents in Baku and Jassy. He also asserted that in the villages of Moinesci and Targu Frumos Rumanians accused Jews of hiding food and other provisions, and broke into the Jews' houses, beating the occupants. All of the refugees questioned declared that they fled in fear of violence. They added that they did not wish to remain in Austria, but wanted to settle in Palestine.

RUMANIAN JEWS ASK SOVIET ENVOY TO SECURE RETURN OF CONSCRIPTS HELD IN RUSSIA AS POW'S

BUCHAREST, May 23. (JTA) -- A delegation representing the Jewish Democratic Committee today called on Soviet Ambassador Sergyei I. Kavitaruhse, urging that he intervene to secure the repatriation from the USSR of Transylvanian Jews who were conscripted into slave labor battalions during the war by the Hungarian Army, which ruled Transylvania.

The conscripts were captured on the Eastern front by the Red Army, and 5,000 are still being held in Russia as prisoners of war. The Ambassador sympathetically received the request and promised to convey it to Moscow.

HUNGARIAN ANTI-SEMITES ARRESTED IN ITALY WHILE POSING AS JEWISH DP EN ROUTE TO PALESTINE

BUDAPEST, May 23. (JTA) -- Lazlo Makkai, who drafted the anti-Jewish legislation of the pro-Nazi Hungarian Government, is reported to have been apprehended in Italy by British military authorities, the Communist daily Szabadsag says today. The paper states that Makkai, who was in Austria, escaped to Italy with the assistance of the fascist underground, and was en route from Rome to Capri when arrested for not having proper identification documents. He claimed that he was a Jewish refugee attempting to reach Palestine.

BRITISH GOVT. LEADERS REPORTED RECONSIDERING PALESTINE POLICY ON EVE OF LABOR PARTY PARLEY

LONDON, May 23. (JTA) -- With the United Nations General Assembly behind and the annual Labor Party conference scheduled to open on Monday at Margate, leaders of the British Government were giving today serious consideration to the Palestine problem.

Government opinion is still divided into two groups, as it was when the Arab conference was held here last winter. One group, of which Colonial Minister Arthur Creech-Jones is the spokesman, believes that a final decision must be made and that partition is the only feasible solution. The second group, which is predominantly anti-Zionist, believes that Britain can convince the U.N. to accept the UN federation plan.

Last January Foreign Minister Bevin was the leader of the second group, but it was understood that the developments at the U.N. session and in Palestine itself have led him to reconsider his stand. The new Soviet position is believed to have had considerable effect upon him.

If Bevin does change his mind, Jewish observers look to him to give some indication of his present position at Margate. However, they caution that it is very early to expect any change in the government's position, and that the Labor leaders may try to push through a resolution white-washing its present policy.

The Mapai, Jewish Labor Party of Palestine, has issued an appeal to the conference to remove the immigration and land purchase restrictions in Palestine during the interim period before the U.N. renders its decision. Signed by Berl Locker, London representative of the Mapai, the appeal is made in the name of "justice and Socialist solidarity."

It points out to the delegates that although the issue is in the hands of the U.N., the Labor Party cannot wash its hands of responsibility towards Palestine and calls on them to reassert the Party's traditional stand on the question and to submit a qualifying brief to the U.N. members. Condemning the "irresponsible deeds" of the extremists, the appeal urges the British Government "to cut the ground from under this ugly phenomenon."

The Palestine debate at the convention will occur next Thursday, it was revealed. Bevin will personally defend the government's policy.

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT PLANNING WATER RESTRICTIONS TO THROTTLE JEWISH DEVELOPMENT

JERUSALEM, May 23. (JTA) -- The government is about to enact legislation similar in its throttling effects on Jewish development in Palestine to the White Paper of 1939, it was learned here today.

The new legislation would restrict the extraction of and the use of Palestinian water resources. As in the case of immigration and land sales, the Jews would be most affected by the proposed legislation. Water is vital to Jewish land reclamation projects, which greatly exceed any government or Arab endeavors in this field.

What the government control of the extraction of the country's underground water resources will mean was indicated recently when the Jews were forbidden to complete their water pipeline project for bringing water to new settlements in the Negev. If the projected water legislation is enacted before the arrival of the UN fact-finding commission, the government's purpose will be clear: namely, to bring land reclamation to a standstill and to try to convince the UN Commission that the absorptive capacity of Palestine has just about reached its limit. This capacity depends upon land development which, in turn, depends on irrigation.

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COMMITTEE FORMED TO HELP UNITED JEWISH APPEAL CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, May 23. (JTA) -- Formation of a National Christian Committee, composed of more than 80 prominent Americans, including high government officials, ranking Army and Navy officers, college presidents, newspaper publishers and leading business and industrial executives, in behalf of the \$170,000,000 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, was announced today by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal.

The former Secretary of the Treasury explained that the purpose of the new Christian Committee is "to bear witness to American unity and neighborliness, and to evidence nationally the Christian support which both last year and this year has come forward spontaneously in so many local communities." Mr. Morgenthau reported that Christian committees in support of the United Jewish Appeal have been established thus far in more than 225 cities throughout the country, and many more are now in process of formation.

The National Christian Committee includes former Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy, President Charles Seymour of Yale University, Charles F. Adams, former Secretary of the Navy, Winthrop W. Aldrich, chairman of the board of the Chase National Bank, Charles P. Taft, president of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, Paul G. Hoffman, chairman of the Committee for Economic Development, Harvey D. Gibson, president of Manufacturers Trust Company, Major General Maxwell D. Taylor, superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, former Mayor F.H. LaGuardia of New York, Nelson A. Rockefeller, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Charles Evans Hughes, Jr.

In accepting membership on the Committee, Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy wrote to Mr. Morgenthau: "As a Christian I feel bound to join your committee. Christian principles command it." Judge Charles C. Cabot, of Massachusetts Superior Court, said: "Certainly no group suffered during the war as did the Jews of Europe and I am glad to endorse the appeal." Stewart F. Hancock, former member of the board of directors of the National War Fund, said: "I believe that the time has come when the American people should be told the story of what the Jewish problem really is."

TRUMAN LAUDS JEWISH DAILY FORWARD ON OBSERVANCE OF ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, May 23. (JTA) -- The "unique and distinguished place" which the Jewish Daily Forward occupies in American journalism was emphasized by President Truman in a message sent on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of that newspaper which is to be celebrated on Sunday at Madison Square Garden.

The message, addressed to Abraham Cahan, editor-in-chief of the Jewish Daily Forward, also stated that the Forward had made itself "an important factor in our American scheme of things." It hailed Cahan as the oldest active newspaper editor in the United States.

"I congratulate you not only on your fifty years of publication--which is something of an achievement in itself--but also on your service throughout the years in the Americanization of great masses of our immigrants, in the advancement of the cause of labor, and in the furtherance of our democratic ideals," Truman wrote.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, will speak at the anniversary celebration. Other speakers will include Mr. Cahan, Harry Rogoff, the paper's managing editor; David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Louis Hollander, general manager of the Joint Board, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, CIO, and Alexander Kahn, general manager of the paper. Adolph Held, national chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, will preside.