

Tuesday, June 17, 1947

JTA

## Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

U.N. COMMITTEE HEARS PALESTINE GOVERNMENT AT CLOSED SESSION; SECRECY EVOKES PROTEST

JERUSALEM, June 16. (JTA) — Operating ahead of schedule, the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine today began its work here by hearing representatives of the Palestine Government, who submitted a voluminous file of facts and figures on the situation in this country.

The committee heard the official representatives under a virtual ultimatum from the government, which said that it would submit its information at a closed session or not at all. The government's stand was attacked by the press and the Jewish Agency, the latter body protesting the failure of the committee to have an Agency representative present when the government was heard.

The Agency will submit its memoranda tomorrow at what it expects will be an open meeting, in accordance with its request. The basis of the Agency's presentation will be a compilation of the oral and written testimony given last year before the Anglo-American inquiry committee.

The government's refusal to appear at an open hearing was revealed by Judge Emil Sandstroem, chairman of the committee, at his first press conference. More than 50 reporters, representing the press of the world, asked repeatedly why a session at which objective facts were to be presented need be held in camera. Sandstroem replied that the Palestine Government had so requested.

Asked further why the committee had acceded to the request, the chairman replied—obviously with some embarrassment—that the Palestine Government refused to submit the material otherwise. When one correspondent asked "to what extent will the Palestine Government determine the procedure of the committee," Sandstroem replied with a touch of asperity that "the Palestine Government is not governing the activities of this committee."

Arab Strike Passes Quietly; Boycott Won't Affect Committee's Work

Questioned concerning the Arab boycott, to which he referred obliquely during a brief nation-wide broadcast pledging that the committee would examine the Palestine question with an open mind, Sandstroem said that the boycott would not stop the probers from visiting Arab villages.

The Arab strike today to voice their disapproval of the committee passed without incident. A message from the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, read in all mosques, called on the country's Arabs to close their ranks and "tenaciously resist all infringements on your rights."

Before the committee held its first meeting in the YMCA building, each delegate and members of the secretariat were subjected to a thorough security check. The Yugoslav delegate Zvonstani Simitch has not yet arrived, and he was represented by

Dr. Jhose Brilez, the alternate Yugoslav delegate. The committee announced that July 5 had been set as the deadline for the submission of written statements by organizations and individuals.

### Sephardic Jews to Testify on Position of Jews in Arab Countries

David Remez, chairman of the Jewish National Council, speaking to a plenary session of the Council today, said that the testimony to be given to the committee by the Council would be identical with that to be submitted by the Jewish Agency, and would show that the historical connection between the Jewish people and Palestine had not been broken through the centuries.

A delegation of Sephardic Jews will testify on the distressing position of Jews residing in Arab countries, he added. Remez welcomed the committee, and said that it would find that Jewish achievements here had also benefitted the Arabs.

### THREE JEWISH YOUTHS CONDEMNED FOR ACRE JAIL ASSAULT; OTHER TWO GET 15 YEARS

JERUSALEM, June 16. (JTA) — Three Jewish youths were condemned to death today following their conviction by a British military court on charges of having participated in the Acre prison delivery May 4. The other two defendants received fifteen-year sentences.

When the colonel commanding the three-man court announced the sentences, the five youths rose and sang Hatikvah in strong, steady voices. They were joined by the audience in the court which included many of their relatives. During the singing, British soldier-attendants moved chairs and performed other tasks in an obvious attempt to disregard the defendants and the audience. All five prisoners wore khaki shirts and shorts and leg irons.

The condemned men—Meir Naker, Abshalom HabiB and Jacob Weiss—are between 20 and 23 years old. They refused to participate in the two-week trial and called on the United Nations inquiry committee to urge abolition of British military tribunals.

The other defendants are Amnon Mikhailoff and Nachman Zitterbaum, who insisted they did not take part in the assault on the medieval Acre jail. After they have served their prison terms, their release will depend on the decision of the High Commissioner, who may extend the terms if he chooses.

Commenting on the imposition of the death sentences, a spokesman for the Jewish Agency declared: "We regard it as very regrettable that the United Nations Committee on Palestine should be starting its work when the shadow of the gallows hangs over this country."

Fifteen Jews and one Arab were killed during the Acre prison break. Of the 216 prisoners who escaped only 29 were Jews. The Irgun which engineered the delivery lost at least two dead and over 20 captured, of whom ten were injured. Thus far only one Jew has been recaptured, in Syria where he is still in jail.

### JEWIS IN ACRE PRISON ON HUNGER STRIKE TO PROTEST THREATENED DEPORTATION; ASK U.N. AID

TEL AVIV, June 16. (JTA) — Jewish prisoners in the Acre jail today were in the second day of a 48-hour hunger strike to protest the recommendation by High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham that all suspected terrorists be deported to internment camps outside the country for security reasons. The prisoners asked the commander of the jail to forward their protest to the U.N. inquiry commission.

JEWISH SPORTS CLUB IN BUENOS AIRES BLASTED BY DAWN BOMBING; EXTENSIVE DAMAGE CAUSED

BUENOS AIRES, June 16. (JTA) -- A large bomb exploded in the hall of the Bar Kochba Sports Club here yesterday, causing extensive damage. Police are investigating the blast, which was the work of several unidentified men who escaped in a waiting car.

The bomb was either planted or thrown into the building's corridor at dawn. The explosion caused no casualties, except for the wife of the building's porter, who is suffering from shock. A few hours before the blast the club had been filled with persons attending a dance.

(The attack on the sports club is the latest in a series of assaults on Jewish-owned buildings and homes, which have occurred in the last six months. The police have been either unwilling or unable to apprehend the groups responsible.)

ZIONIST PAPER SUSPENDED IN HUNGARY; HASHOMER HATZAIR HOLDS PARLEY IN BUDAPEST

BUDAPEST, June 16. (JTA) -- The "Jewish Road," Zionist weekly organ, which made its first appearance last week, has been suspended by the Allied Control Commission pending clarification of the legal status of the Zionist Organization, which has not received legal sanction from the Ministry of the Interior, although it is allowed to function freely.

A congress of the Hungarian section of the Hashomer Hatzair, meeting here with 150 delegates attending, adopted resolutions expressing solidarity with Hungarian democracy "which is fighting reaction and reconstructing the country," pledged support to the struggle of the Palestine Jews to "free themselves from British imperialism," attacked the "Revisionist terrorists" in Palestine and welcomed the statement on Palestine made at the U.N. by Soviet delegate Andrei Gromyko.

JEWISH TERRORIST SUSPECTS IN BELGIUM EXPECTED TO BE EXTRADITED TO ENGLAND

BRUSSELS, June 16. (JTA) -- Elizabeth Lazarus and Elias Jacobs, who are charged with complicity in the mailing of letter bombs to prominent Britons, will probably be extradited to England, it was learned here, although in the normal course of events, deportation or a mild prison term would be the only penalty. However, no request for extradition has been received as yet from Britain, according to Xavier Carton de Wiart, their attorney.

The young woman, who is a granddaughter of the Russian composer Alexander Scriabin, and a decorated veteran of the French resistance, denied that she is a Sternist, but added that "I loathe the British, and I will fight them to the last hour of my life."

Meanwhile, police are still holding several Jews suspected of being connected with terrorism, who were seized during a round-up in Brussels during the week-end. (Paris police searched Miss Lazarus' home in Paris on Saturday at the behest of Scotland Yard. British police suspect that she and Jacobs may be responsible for the placing of a bomb in the women's cloak room in the Colonial Office last April.)

685 JEWISH INTERNEES QUIT CYPRUS FOR PALESTINE; WILL BE RELEASED UNDER MONTHLY QUOTA

HAIFA, June 16. (JTA) -- Six hundred and eighty-five visaless Jewish internees sailed from Cyprus today for Haifa. They will remain in the Athlit camp, near here, until released under the regular monthly immigration quota.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ASKS OUTLAWING OF RACIST PROPAGANDA

LONDON, June 16. (JTA) -- A report recommending the outlawing of anti-racial and religious propaganda was adopted here today at a meeting of the International Consultative Conference on Human Rights which is being attended by 100 delegates from 15 nations. The report stresses the need for effective legislation and education to eradicate anti-Semitism.

Where legislation prohibiting the carrying on of racist activity exists, it must be made more effective, the report states, adding that discrimination in employment should be made a criminal offense. It further proposes the banning of discrimination in educational institutions and charges educational authorities with the task of keeping the minds of school children free of bias. Religious leaders are similarly urged to make certain that religious bias does not enter into the education of the youth.

The report also suggests that bogus Nazi race doctrines should be refuted scientifically. It recommends that the press be asked to eliminate racial stigmas from news items. Finally, it asks that religious, labor, cultural and civic groups remove anti-Semitism from their own ranks and see to it that prejudice is stamped out in their communities.

The report charges that "since the defeat of fascism many fascists and anti-Semites are safe to begin operations once more." It accuses the governments of many countries of "a practiced, though unwritten, policy of excluding or restricting the immigration of Jews. On the other hand," it continues, "they allow the entry of known pro-Nazi groups and elements."

The delegates decided to ask their own organizations for approval of a proposal to appoint a provisional Human Rights Committee to call an international congress in Brussels next April to stimulate civil rights activity in all countries. The congress will also coordinate its activities with the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

BRITISH JEWS WILL ASK GOVERNMENT TO TIGHTEN REGULATIONS COVERING ANTI-SEMITIC GROUPS

LONDON, June 16. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews will shortly approach the Home Secretary with a demand for tightening of the regulations covering the activities of fascist organizations, it was reported yesterday at a meeting of the board. L.J. Hydelman, chairman of its defense committee, said that anti-Semitic activities were increasing and required prompt action.

During a discussion of the "scare" stories carried in the British press in connection with the letter bombs sent to prominent Britons, Hydelman said that he did not believe that the stories were published to arouse anti-Semitism, but merely because they were considered newsworthy.

It was reported at the meeting that a special session of the board may be held to authorize a memorandum for submission to the U.N. inquiry committee on Palestine. The memorandum is now being prepared by a drafting sub-committee of the board's Palestine committee.

U.N. DRAFT ON GENOCIDE SEEN DOOMED AS INTERNATIONAL LAW BODY REFUSES TO ACT

LAKE SUCCESS, June 16. (JTA) -- The draft convention on genocide prepared by the U.N. secretariat seems doomed to remain in the U.N. files as a result of the disinclination of the Committee on International Law to grapple with the problem. At today's meeting the committee almost unanimously opposed a Polish proposal that immediate action be taken to draw up a convention, declaring that nothing can be done until their respective governments state their positions.

BRITH ABRAHAM CONVENTION SUPPORTS BILL FOR ADMISSION OF 400,000 DP'S TO UNITED STATES

ATLANTIC CITY, June 16. (JTA) -- The 60th annual convention of the Order Brith Abraham went on record today in favor of passage by Congress of the Stratton Bill, which provides for the admission of 400,000 DP's, and adopted a resolution calling for Federal and state laws outlawing discrimination in employment.

Other resolutions demanded an international law punishing those responsible for spreading racial hatred through newspapers, pamphlets or through assembly; the abolition of all anti-Jewish legislation in all countries; the return of personal property stripped by levies and fines from Jews to the surviving victims of Hitler; the return by Germany of heirless Jewish property to a recognized Jewish agency to be used for Jewish rehabilitation; action by the United Nations to send increased aid to displaced persons to prevent further deaths from malnutrition and disease; and permission for Jews still residing in Germany to leave that country if they so desire, without molestation and with the right to take their property with them.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, addressing the convention, predicted that a Jewish state in the whole or part of Palestine will be established "before the end of the year." He termed his prediction "a prophecy" and said it would come about "unless the British Government does the unthinkable and unforgivable thing of sabotaging the report of the U.N. Assembly on Palestine." He called on President Truman to insist that the recommendations of the U.N. Assembly with regard to Palestine be accepted by the British.

Rabbi Wise sharply attacked those members of the Senate who oppose the Stratton Bill. "There are thousands of refugees in Europe in camps who are better Americans than members of the U.S. Senate," he said, advising the House Committee on Un-American Activities to investigate the conduct of some of the Senators opposing the Stratton Bill.

BNEI ZION CONVENTION APPEALS TO TRUMAN "TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP" IN PALESTINE DELIBERATIONS

ATLANTIC CITY, June 16. (JTA) -- The 38th annual convention of the Order Bnei Zion concluded today with a resolution asking President Truman "to assume leadership" in the U.N. deliberations on the Palestine question" so that the long-declared policy of our President for free Jewish immigration into Palestine and the establishment there of a democratic Jewish State be realized."

In addressing the convention, Mendel N. Fisher, executive director of the Jewish National Fund of America, stated: "The White Paper policy has not broken the spirit of the Jews of Palestine. We have neither faltered nor slackened the pace in the redemption of land. Despite the discriminatory land policy, 400,000 new dunams of land have been added. This brings up to 900,000 dunams the land in Jewish possession."

160 JEWISH REFUGEES FROM EUROPE ARRIVE IN NEW YORK ON POLISH SHIP; MET BY USNA, HIAS

NEW YORK, June 16. (JTA) -- One hundred and sixty Jewish refugees from all parts of Europe arrived here today aboard the Polish motorship Batory.

Some ninety men, women and children were met by the United Service for New Americans which is arranging for their reception and reunion with relatives in this country. An additional 30 persons arrived under the sponsorship of HIAS.

