

Wednesday, July 23, 1947

# TA *Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

## LAST MINUTE NEWS

### COLOMBIA HAS NOT ISSUED VISAS TO EXODUS REFUGEES, FOREIGN MINISTRY TELLS JTA

BOGOTA, July 22. (JTA) -- The Colombian Ministry of Foreign Relations, in an exclusive statement today to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said that "it has not granted visas for immigration to Colombia to any group of persons of any nationality."

The statement said that Colombia "has authorized only individual visas after study of each case and only in cases where there are near relatives such as parents, children or spouses resident in Colombia, or in cases of persons having professions useful to the country such as industrial and agricultural techniques.

"The Ministry has ordered its diplomatic and consular agents to make an exhaustive investigation of the origin and basis of reports published in today's press," the statement concluded.

An official spokesman told a JTA correspondent that group visas, such as those reportedly held by the 4,500 refugees being returned to France from Palestine, are never issued, and that the ministry here and not the consul in Paris will decide individual cases.

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## 500 EXODUS DEPORTEES WILL REFUSE TO DISEMBARK; FRANCE SAYS IT IS BRITISH PROBLEM

PARIS, July 22. (JTA) -- Haganah circles here today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the 4,500 Jewish refugees now being returned to France from Palestine will refuse to disembark when the three British deportation ships on which they are being transported reach France.

A Haganah spokesman said that the Ministry of the Interior had given assurances that the refugees would not be disembarked forcibly. He quoted the Ministry as stating that the problem was solely a British one.

The press officer at the French Foreign Office disclosed tonight that an urgent inter-ministerial conference was studying France's position in reference to the deportees. The only official decision reached so far was to permit the deportation vessels to touch at Ville Franche "to refuel," he added.

The Colombian Embassy here disclosed that it had communicated with its government in Bogota, requesting instructions concerning the deportees, who are reported to hold either a collective Colombian visa or individual Colombian visas. A spokesman said that no reply was expected for at least 48 hours.

## BRITISH SAY ULTIMATE FATE OF REFUGEES IS UP TO FRANCE; QUESTION RAISED IN COMMONS

LONDON, July 22. (JTA) -- The British Foreign Office said today that the ultimate fate of the Exodus refugees rested with the French Government, since for purposes of international law France was considered their country of origin, and had agreed to the return of the immigrants to its territorial waters.

He said that although it would not be accurate to state that the deportation of the visaless Jews meant a return to Britain's pre-war policy of sending unauthorized immigrants back to their countries of departure, the government had found that "deportation to Cyprus was found to have an insufficient deterrent effect on the organizers of this traffic."

Simultaneously, several Members of Parliament sharply questioned Colonial Minister Arthur Creech-Jones during a brief discussion in the House of Commons. He refused to give assurances that the deportees would not be compelled to go to South America, stating that the situation was "purely hypothetical" at the present. He told a questioner that the 4,500 Jews had not been sent to Cyprus because the accommodations there were limited and "there are great difficulties in getting a considerable body of Jews into Palestine."

The Colonial Minister also said that ultimate destination of the refugees was up to France. "What will happen in France is a matter entirely for the French," he added. Laborites Samuel Silverman and Barnett Janner pointed out the Exodus passengers had suffered inhuman brutalities and could not be expected to wander for years in the high seas.

The Foreign Office spokesman said that agreement with France had been reached only on this particular incident. He did not know whether France would permit the

7/23/47

ugees to land, whether quarters had been prepared for them, or whether the French government was in contact with the Colombian Government.

He described the present Palestine immigration quota of 1,500 Jews monthly as "not unreasonable contribution to the solution of the immigration question," which he described as the crux of the problem. He pointed out that the Peel Commission report of 1937 recommended the admission of 1,000 monthly.

### Two More Ships Under British Naval Surveillance

The government deplored "tendencies to represent this as an Anglo-Jewish struggle," he added, declaring that it was an Arab-Jewish struggle, with Britain's role confined to preserving law and order; since immigration was at the bottom of the Arab-Jewish conflict, it was essential that Britain regulate immigration.

It was reported tonight that British naval forces are keeping under surveillance two vessels in the French port of Bayonne, which are believed waiting for an opportunity to slip into the Mediterranean to pick up visaless Jews. They are the 273-ton Northland and the Pahduca, both allegedly owned by New York shipping firms.

### NEW YORK RALLY TOMORROW TO HIT EXODUS SEIZURE; U.S. PROTEST TO BRITAIN ASKED

NEW YORK, July 22. (JTA) -- The American Zionist Emergency Council today announced that a mass meeting will be held in Madison Square Park here on Thursday, to protest against the British seizure of the Exodus and the deportation of its passengers, as the American Jewish Conference called on the U.S. Government to protest to Britain against the attack.

A memorial service will be conducted at the rally for William Bernstein, American first mate of the Exodus, who was killed on the bridge of his vessel by a British naval boarding party. Speakers will include Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Dr. Emanuel Mann, Mrs. Moses Epstein and Rep. Emanuel Celler.

In a telegram to President Truman, the Conference urged him to "speak out" against the "unlawful" British blockade of the Mediterranean, which is keeping Jews out of Palestine. Asserting that the Exodus incident is "but one of a chain of similar occurrences during the past year," the Conference appealed to the President to make "America's stand and sentiments known to the British Government."

In a wire to Secretary of State George C. Marshall, the organization charged that the incident was a violation of international law and the freedom of the seas. It called on him to investigate the incident, to lodge a protest with the British government, to demand an end to the "illegal blockade of the Jewish National Home," and to secure guarantees that similar incidents will not recur.

### JEWISH AGENCY PROTESTS TO FRANCE, BRITAIN, PALESTINE ON RETURN OF EXODUS IMMIGRANTS

JERUSALEM, July 22. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency has made strong representations to the British, French and Palestine Governments protesting the return of the Exodus passengers to France, it was revealed today by a spokesman for the Agency. He declared that there was sufficient room on Cyprus for the 4,500 refugees.

Summing up the experiences of visaless Jews arriving in Palestine waters during the past ten months, he said that 12 persons had been killed and many injured during boarding and transshipping operations by British forces against 21 vessels carrying 1,000 refugees during that period.

## JERUSALEM BECOMES A BATTLEGROUND AS EXTREMISTS CARRY ATTACKS INTO SIXTH DAY

JERUSALEM, July 22. (JTA) -- Jerusalem was today a battleground from early morning until late tonight as attacks on British military and police installations continued into the sixth day. Three times military sirens wailed and traffic was halted as reinforcements raced to relieve police and soldiers in a target area.

At one time three different actions were taking place in scattered parts of the city. The Mustashpha police station was brought under gunfire from surrounding roofs, while a Molotov cocktail was hurled at another police station, and two R.A.F. vehicles were the target of incendiary bombs. About the same time police discovered and detonated two mines on a road on the outskirts of the city.

Earlier, alarms sounded after three persons threw grenades at a passing vehicle which was once owned by the army but is now operated by a civilian. A military jeep was fired on by two youths in Rehavia. One soldier was wounded, as was a passing Jew. Another vehicle escaped injury when an incendiary hand grenade missed it in Zion Square, in the center of the city. Two other persons, one an Arab and the other a Jewish taxi driver, were fired upon. A government communique listed six Jews as having been wounded during the incidents.

Hundreds of persons were trapped in crossfire during the day and were forced to seek shelter until the firing ended, well after the curfew hour. They had considerable difficulty explaining their presence in the streets to troops who later enforced the curfew regulations. Three stores were set on fire by bullets fired by troops and extremists.

### Eight Killed, 49 Wounded in 37 Incidents During Week

A government announcement early today revealed that there had been 37 distinct incidents throughout the country during the past week. The casualty toll amounted to eight killed, 16 wounded seriously, and 33 injured slightly.

In the Mount Carmel quarter of Haifa, a British soldier was injured when a truck was blown up by an electrically detonated bomb.

About midnight two breaks were discovered in the Iraq Petroleum Company's pipeline south of Nazareth. A quantity of oil was lost. It was officially announced that eight Jews detained yesterday after the blasting of a pipeline east of Haifa, at Kfar Yehoshua, have been released.

Two diamond robberies occurred in Tel Aviv within an hour. More than \$3,000 worth of jewels were taken, and in both cases the holdup-men escaped.

In Nathanya, the military authorities completed arrangements to close down all shops in the city and use troops to distribute foodstuffs. Mayor Oved Ben Ami called on Brig. Sir Humphrey Gale, commander of "Operation Tiger," to protest the contemplated action and to warn that the Jews would refuse to accept food distributed by the British. He declared that all the inhabitants of the Nathanya area might go on a hunger strike.

A military spokesman revealed that 21 persons have been detained for further questioning. Admitting that nothing incriminating has been found during the house-to-house searches thus far, he added that the city and its satellite settlements would remain under military control until the two British sergeants kidnapped there about ten days ago are found.

It is understood that an urgent meeting of representatives of all local councils, the Jewish National Council and the Jewish Agency has been called for tomorrow to discuss the rapidly deteriorating situation in the country.

ARAB SPOKESMAN DEMANDS HALT TO JEWISH IMMIGRATION AT U.N. COMMITTEE HEARING

SOFAR, The Lebanon, July 22. (JTA) -- The Arab position on the Palestine problem was presented here today at an open hearing by Lebanese Foreign Minister Hamid Ferangie, who spoke for the governments of Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, all of whom had representatives present.

Reading a prepared statement in French, he demanded immediate cessation of Jewish immigration to Palestine and the establishment of the country as an Arab state. He declared that it was acceptable to the Arabs that the Jews already living in Palestine remain there, but that no more be permitted to enter. He asserted that minorities in the Arab states had always lived safely and happily and there was no reason for the Jews to expect different treatment in an Arab Palestine.

A memorandum submitted by Ferangie on behalf of the six Arab states charged that partition would complicate the problem even more, since the existence of a Jewish state would lead to disturbances and warfare throughout the Middle East. It challenged the need for large-scale Jewish immigration, stating that since the defeat of Nazism there was no center of anti-Semitism in the world.

The presentation took less than two hours and the entire session was over before noon, marking the completion of the committee's public hearings in Lebanon. After the public hearings, the members of the committee spent the remainder of the day in closed meetings. Late in the afternoon the delegates met with Lebanese President Bechara el-Khoury at his home where he is confined by illness. Some members will probably visit Maronite Patriarch Arida to hear the views of the Christians of Lebanon, the only non-Arab majority in any Arab state.

It is reported that a number of members of the committee, together with Dr. Victor Hoo, Assistant Secretary-General of the U.N., are planning to fly to Amman, capital of Transjordan, tomorrow to hear King Abdullah. It is expected that the committee will wind up its work in the Arab states by tomorrow and leave for Geneva on Thursday.

LEBANON AGAIN REVERSES ITSELF; J.T.A. CORRESPONDENT WITH U.N. GROUP STILL BARRED

JERUSALEM, July 22. (JTA) -- The Lebanese Government today, without explanation, withdrew the visa offered yesterday to Gerold Frank, J.T.A. correspondent, to enable him to attend the Beirut sessions of the United Nations Palestine Commission.

When Frank called at the Lebanese Consulate here this morning to pick up the visa, the consul was obviously glad that the embarrassing episode in which the Lebanese Government was taking an attitude in opposition to the United Nations, was at last being smoothed over. He asked him to wait a few moments while he urgently telephoned Beirut for the authorization number to be stamped on the visa since it was especially authorized by the Foreign Office and the same number had been furnished to the Lebanese border authorities. He returned from the telephone ten minutes later and announced most apologetically that the Foreign Office in Beirut now stated that the visa had been withdrawn.

Frank asked William Porter, American Consul in Jerusalem, to telephone Lowell V. Pinkerton, American Minister in Beirut, to ascertain why the Lebanese had reversed their decision, and to ask its re-issuance on the principle that freedom of the press had to be established beyond any doubt. Mr. Pinkerton, only yesterday, had telephoned Jerusalem to inform the Consulate that his visa had been granted.

7/23/47

3,000 RUMANIAN JEWISH REFUGEES STREAM INTO AUSTRIA, OVERTAXING AID FACILITIES

VIENNA, July 22. (JTA) -- The number of Rumanian Jewish refugees who have been flooding Austria increased by 3,000 during the last three weeks, and there are now 12,400 living in three camps in the Vienna area. The Rothschild hospital, with 2,400 people living in its 800-bed quarters, has refugees living in the stone cellars, corridors and on the stairs.

One pregnant woman with four children was seen lying on the cold floor while hospital attendants desperately sought space for her. Lisa Rinsler, well-known Rumanian singer, and her actor husband, Burach, were observed sleeping in the hospital garden without any protection.

Among the refugees are 50 one-year-old babies and many old people who are completely exhausted and have hardly any clothing. Often these people have been traveling for many weeks from the Moldau district and Bucharest, and arrived at the hospital infested with body lice and physically broken down.

They say they wish to emigrate to Palestine. Conceding that there are no actual pogroms in Rumania, they insist that anti-Semitism is increasing daily and that many former Iron Guards, many of whom, they say, have found refuge with Communist authorities, still continue their anti-Semitic actions despite the government's attempts to check them. These refugees also point to hunger and inflation in Rumania which added to their already heavy burden.

The Joint Distribution Committee is doing its utmost to aid these people but it cannot possibly meet all their needs. Most of the refugees are poor workingmen, but wealthy Jews are also fleeing Rumania because of their fear of communism.

Bronislaw Teichholz, president of the International Committee for Refugees, has appealed to the Displaced Persons section of the U.S. Army in Austria to lift the prohibition against the admission of new DP's into the regular refugee camps, but the request has been denied on the basis of strict orders from Washington to uphold the ban. Appeals for assistance have also been made to the International Refugee Organization and the Austrian Government. The Ministry of Interior here has replied that it has set aside for the use of the JDC a new building to house the refugees.

Jewish groups, however, fear that this will not suffice since, according to reports reaching here, many thousands more of the Rumanian refugees are expected to arrive in the near future.

A representative of the Ministry of Interior has been sent to the IRO conferences in Switzerland where it is expected he will report privately to the delegates on the refugee situation in this country.

HUNGARIAN JEWS WHOSE LAND WAS EXPROPRIATED BY PRO-NAZI REGIMES ASK COMPENSATION

BUDAPEST, July 22. (JTA) -- The Association of Jewish Land Holders has appealed to Premier Lajos Dinnyes for compensation for Jews who leased farming property on a share basis and who lost considerable fortunes during the war as a result of anti-Jewish laws expropriating their property.

Pointing out that nothing has been done as yet to relieve their plight and that many are living on charity, the Association demanded an advance on future compensation. The advance would amount to approximately 180 pounds of wheat for each acre which the owner rented.

SENATE BODY APPROVES ANTI-BIAS MEASURE; SENDS BILL TO COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL

WASHINGTON, July 22. (JTA) -- A Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee to-reported favorably, by a 4 - 1 vote, and returned to the full committee, the Es-Chavez bill to outlaw discrimination in employment.

In a statement issued by Subcommittee Chairman Forrest C. Donnell, Missouri Republican, it was recommended that the bill be returned to the full committee "with a statement that the Subcommittee favors the general purposes of the bill," but recommending that the full committee "give further study to the provisions of the bill." Donnell also pointed out that Senators Irving M. Ives, New York Republican, and James E. Murray, Democrat of Montana, favor the bill in its present form.

SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES BILL FOR INCORPORATION OF JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF U.S.

WASHINGTON, July 22. (JTA) -- A bill to incorporate the Jewish War Veterans of the United States was today favorably reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee and now awaits Senate action. A similar House bill is still with a House Judiciary Subcommittee awaiting full committee action.

U.S. ASKS RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT FOR SUBSIDIES FOR 31 PROJECTS IT MAINTAINS IN COUNTRY

PARIS, July 22. (JTA) -- A request that 31 ORT projects in Rumania receive state subsidies was made here by Dr. Aron Syngalowski, executive co-chairman of the World ORT Union, in an interview with M. Stoilov, Rumanian Minister in Paris.

The ORT representative pointed out that similar subsidies were being granted by other European nations where the organization maintained schools and training centers. He informed the minister of the ORT's desire to establish an agricultural training center in Rumania if the government would supply about 25 acres of land as a site. Stoilov promised favorable action.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE DELEGATION IN PARIS HONORED BY FRENCH JEWISH LEADERS

PARIS, July 22. (JTA) -- A delegation of the American Jewish Committee which arrived here in connection with the opening of the Committee's European office in Paris was tendered a reception by Isaac Schneersohn, director of the Jewish Documentation Center.

Many French Jewish leaders including Judge Leon Meiss, head of the Central Representation of the Jews of France, and Dr. Marc Jarblum, president of the Federation of Jewish Societies in France, were present. The A.J.C. delegation includes Dr. John Slawson, executive vice-president of the Committee, and Joel D. Wolfsohn, head of the European office.

OVER 100 JEWISH DELEGATES FROM PALESTINE WILL ATTEND WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IN PRAGUE

PRAGUE, July 22. (JTA) -- More than 100 delegates from the Jewish community of Palestine, including a delegation of Jewish Communists, are expected to attend the World Youth Festival here, it was revealed by Gershon Hirsch, secretary of the Jewish group, who has already arrived here.

In addition, a delegation of Arab youth will also attend. Hirsch declared that he hoped to succeed in obtaining unanimous action by all delegates from Palestine.