

Monday, November 17, 1947

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

U.N. ASSEMBLY ENTERS THIRD MONTH TODAY WITH MAJOR PALESTINE PROBLEMS STILL UNSOLVED

LAKE SUCCESS, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- The United Nations General Assembly enters the third month of its current session tomorrow with several major points of the Palestine problem still unsettled.

Three vital questions to which no final answers have yet been found are: the termination date of the British Mandate, the scope of authority of the Implementation Commission to be established by the General Assembly and its relationship with the Mandatory Power, and the disposition of assets remaining in the hands of the Palestine Government at the time that Britain relinquishes civil administration. Varying progress has been made on all these points.

Moshe Shertok, speaking for the Jewish Agency, yesterday told the working group on implementation that the Agency would prefer to have the Mandate terminated by March 1, 1948. He stated that this was necessary since an early start in the transfer of authority to the Jewish state was vital because of the sufferings of the internees in Cyprus, the growing tenseness in the European DP camps and the possibility that further outbreaks of violence will occur if the U.N. moves too slowly. It was imperative, he stressed, that the Jewish state be empowered as soon as possible to deal with immigration, land transfer and to begin organizing and training its own militia.

Agency Wants Right to Propose Members of Provisional Governing Council

Discussing the ultimate formation of Provisional Councils of Government by the U.N. Commission, Shertok said that the Agency and the Jewish National Council want the right to propose names from which the Commission will choose the members of the Council.

On the question of the termination of the Mandate, Canada proposed yesterday that the Mandate end on May 1 at the same time that the independence of the Jewish and Arab states is proclaimed. The Canadian delegation said that this was necessary, since otherwise there would be a gap between the time the Mandate ends and the new states come into being during which no body would exercise sovereignty in Palestine. This was opposed by the Russian delegation, which said that it was impossible to conceive of independent states being established while an occupying power still had troops on their soil. The working group deferred a decision on the Canadian proposal.

Alarmed by reports that the Palestine Government planned to dispose of its assets before liquidation of the Mandate, the Jewish Agency yesterday asked the sub-committee on partition to provide that "during the period between appointment of a Commission and termination of the Mandate, the Mandatory shall negotiate with the U.N. Commission on any measure which it may contemplate involving liquidation, transfer and encumbering of assets of the Palestine Government, such as accumulated treasury surplus, proceeds of government bonds, state lands or any other assets." The

sub-committee did not act on the Agency proposal, but it was indicated that some safeguards would be provided to ensure that the future Jewish and Arab states would receive assets rightfully due them.

The sub-committee finally approved an earlier Agency demand that a ceiling of \$16,000,000 be placed on the contributions of the Jewish state to the joint economic union. It adopted a compromise Agency proposal which suggested that surplus revenues from customs and other common services shall be divided in the following manner: not less than five or more than ten percent to the city of Jerusalem; the residue to be allocated to each state by the joint economic board equally except that the share of either shall not exceed the amount of that state's contribution to the revenue of the economic union by more than approximately \$16,000,000 in any year. After five years the principle of distribution of joint revenues shall be revised by the joint economic board.

The sub-committee adopted provisionally a clause supporting the admission of the Jewish and Arab states to the U.N., with a U.S. modification that when the independence of the two states was effected, "sympathetic consideration should be given to their applications."

The sub-committee also recommended the establishment of a three-man court of claims to consider disputes arising from the refusal of either state to recognize the abrogation of the Mandate. The court would consist of a representative of the U.N., of Britain and of the Jewish or Arab state. It also agreed to refer to the International Court of Justice disputes on international conventions and treaties signed by Britain.

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT OPENS BIDS FOR HAIFA LAND DESPITE DENIAL IT IS LIQUIDATING ASSETS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- Despite the denial by the Foreign Office that the British administration in Palestine is planning to dispose of the Palestine Government's assets prior to termination of the Mandate, the Government is going ahead with plans to seal valuable state property along the Haifa waterfront, it was learned today.

Advertisements have been submitted to local newspapers, for publication on Friday, inviting bids on 69 plots of ground in the port area. According to the advertisements, the government already gets ground rental from this tract of nearly \$50,000 annually, on 49-year lease to private operators. The rental will be upped to \$144,000 beginning next July.

Meanwhile, it was announced that Eric Mills, formerly the government's immigration commissioner and who is now a commissioner for special duties, has been appointed head of the "Liquidation Committee" which is preparing for the British evacuation. In this connection, it was learned that the committee has already drawn up estimates of state property which ostensibly cannot be removed or handed over to the successor administrations and is preparing to sell such property. The funds derived from such sales will be invested in government bearer bonds, it is stated.

Following a meeting yesterday of High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham with his department heads, instructions were issued today to speed the preparations for withdrawal. Plans are being worked out, it is understood, to halt the subsidies allocated to certain foodstuffs to keep prices down. Also, the director of the Palestine rail network, which is government-operated, disclosed that he has cancelled orders to repair damage to the rail system resulting from extremist attacks. He added that all plans for expansion of the rail services are also being cancelled.

187 VISALESS JEWS DEPORTED TO CYPRUS AFTER REACHING PALESTINE; 187 EVADE BRITISH BLOCKADE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- Seven hundred and eighty-one visaless Jews who arrived in Palestine this morning aboard the blockade runner Kadimah were transshipped this afternoon to Cyprus aboard the British deportation ferry Runnymede Park.

Meanwhile, British security forces were scouring the countryside around Naharia, about 20 miles north of Haifa for 187 refugees from the immigrant ship Aliya which evaded the British blockade last night and beached itself on the Naharia shore. According to informed sources most of the 187 were youngsters between the ages of 13 and 20 who had been trained for a "beachhead landing." The Aliyah, a small schooner, was towed into Haifa late today.

The Kadimah and the Aliya had proceeded together towards Palestine during the past 10 days, shadowed by British naval craft. In the pitch blackness of last night, the small Aliya succeeded in escaping from its escort and making for the shore. It was the first vessel to evade the British blockade in nearly a year.

When the Kadimah was brought into Haifa this morning, its passengers, who had not put up any resistance, were singing Hatikvah and gaily waving to those on shore. Almost all of them were well fed and appeared fit. Four women and one child were hospitalized and eight members of their families were allowed to come ashore with them. Those deported tonight included 414 men, 248 women and 121 children. Most were from Poland and Hungary.

Haifa Jewish Quarter Curfewed As Troops Hunt for Fugitive Refugees

According to Jewish sources, the disembarkation from the Aliyah took about a half-hour and the refugees were spirited into the interior in trucks, busses and private cars. Road blocks were thrown up around Naharia by British troops and all passing vehicles were searched. A rigid vehicle curfew was clamped down on the Jewish quarters of Haifa tonight to facilitate the hunt.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew banning the use of motor traffic in all Jewish areas of the country was already in effect, as of last night, in an attempt to end the current attacks against British military forces and civilians launched by the Stern Group in reprisal for the killing of five of its members last week.

The center of Jerusalem resembled the set of a Wild West movie last night for about 45 minutes as bullets whizzed against walls and through shutters, explosions were heard and sirens wailed. Persons in the streets sought shelter in the nearest house and householders in the vicinity hugged the floors to avoid being hit by stray shots through their windows. The shooting was set off by a jittery police patrol which alleged that it had been fired upon.

The private war being waged by members of the security forces and some individual Britons continues. Following the killing on Friday night of Haim Goldmann and the wounding of Emanuel Ben Gurion - passengers in a bus en route to Haifa--by gunmen firing from a speeding car, a party of English-speaking men broke into a house at Beer Jacob, near Rehovoth, and beat Mrs. Itzhak Behar, the owner. Jewish settlement police who responded to her cries fired on the assailants, wounding one, but the attackers escaped.

The Baganah last night foiled several attempts by extremists--believed to be Sternists--to attack military vehicles near Raanana, resulting in minor clashes. A broadcast tonight by the Irgun called for unity of all Jewish fighting forces, declaring that "all divergencies must be abolished in the face of the supreme danger to the nation and our homeland."

R. WILLIAM FILDERMAN, LONG-TIME PRESIDENT OF UNION OF ROMANIAN JEWS, RESIGNS

BUCHAREST, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- Dr. William Filderman, president of the Union of Romanian Jews, has announced his resignation. The reason for his action, he said, was that the organization's activities were hampered by an acute shortage of funds.

Attorneys who in the past may have shown an anti-Semitic attitude in or out of court may henceforth be barred from the Rumanian bar, according to new regulations promulgated yesterday, which provide for the reorganization of the legal profession in the country. The law dissolving all bar associations, as well as other legal groups, stipulates that anti-Semites will not be permitted to re-registration.

The Rumanian Socialist and Communist parties, which have agreed on a common political platform, have included a special plank which commits them to the "sternest fight against anti-Semitism."

BRITISH CIVIL RIGHTS BODY CALLS FOR OUTLAWING PRO-FASCIST, ANTI-SEMITIC PREACHING

LONDON, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- The National Council for Civil Liberties in a statement issued last night called for legislation banning "the preaching of fascism and anti-Semitism." The statement came as a result of a meeting marking the first post-war public appearance of fascist leader Sir Oswald Mosley.

A Jewish reply to Mosley's anti-Semitic agitation was given today at the annual Remembrance Day parade by 10,000 Jewish veterans who marched down Parade Field with multi-colored banners to the cheering of immense crowds. Acting Chief Rabbi Harris Lazarus and Senior Army Chaplain Israel Brodiss officiated. Field Marshall Lord Alan Brooke took the salute as the veterans marched past the Cenotaph, where Britain's Unknown Soldier lies.

The municipal council of Billericay, in Essex, which is reported to be the choice of the fascist League of Ex-Servicemen for its new headquarters, has adopted a resolution urging the Home Secretary to exercise his powers to curb the activities of the League. The resolution pointed out that the League might become a threat to the peace of the district.

SWISS NAZI GOES ON TRIAL FOR VIOLATING NEUTRALITY; MADE ANTI-JEWISH BROADCASTS

GENEVA, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- Georges Oltamare, former head of the anti-Semitic National Union Party here and an anti-Jewish broadcaster for the Nazis during the occupation of France, has been placed on trial here on charges of having endangered Swiss neutrality during the war. The charge is based on his editorship of the German-sponsored Paris newspaper "France au Travail."

Questioned by the court as to whether he had requisitioned a Jewish-owned apartment during his stay in Paris, Oltamare replied that he had "only taken back what a Jew had obtained from others."

24TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF UNITED ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF BULGARIA CONCLUDES

SOFIA, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- The 24th annual convention of the United Zionist Organization of Bulgaria has concluded here with the adoption of resolutions hailing a recent trade pact between Bulgaria and the Jewish part of Palestine, expressing support of the Fatherland Front and offering all possible aid to Palestine immigration.

The Poale Zion, General Zionists and the Hashomer Hatzair control a majority of the seats on the newly-elected executive. After the conclusion of the parley, a delegation representing all political parties in the organization visited the Soviet minister to thank him for his government's favorable stand on Palestine at Lake Mooss.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE NEXT MONTH TO CONSIDER EFFECTS OF PARTITION ON EUROPE'S JEWS

NEW YORK, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- The decision by the U.N. General Assembly on the partition of Palestine will be considered in relation to the 1948 overseas aid programs of American Jewry at the national conference of the United Jewish Appeal to be held in Atlantic City, Dec. 12-15, it was announced today by Henry Morgenthau Jr., general chairman.

The conference will consider the following factors in formulating a program for next year: 1. The extent of American Jewry's participation, together with governments, in financing the transfer of 150,000 homeless Jews to Palestine; 2. The increased resources required to meet the needs of the Jews in the DP camps as a result of reduction of intergovernmental assistance; 3. The need for greater resources for reconstruction of the Jewish communities in Europe, and 4. The possibilities for larger immigration to the United States.

Meanwhile, Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, national co-chairman of the UJA, who returned recently from a survey of conditions in Europe, reported that more than 32 percent of the Jewish women between the ages of 18 and 45 in the U.S. zone in Germany were either expectant or nursing mothers. He said that there are now 10,000 Jewish children in the DP camps under one year of age.

U.S.N.A. ADOPTS \$13,664,000 BUDGET FOR AID TO REFUGEE IMMIGRANTS DURING 1948

CHICAGO, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- A \$13,664,000 program for displaced persons and refugees entering the United States in 1948, the greatest ever conducted in this field, was outlined today by Irvin Bettmann, Sr. of St. Louis, chairman of the financial planning committee of United Service for New Americans, following a meeting of the committee here.

The U.S.N.A. program will provide for migration aid, economic assistance, resettlement and adjustment to American life of 2,000 or more survivors of Nazi persecution who are expected to enter the United States each month during 1948, Mr. Bettmann said. United Service has expanded during the past year and a half until it is now the second largest voluntary welfare agency operating in the United States, next to the American Red Cross, he revealed.

This growth, Mr. Bettmann explained, has been necessary in order to meet the needs of the newcomers who have been finding haven in this country. "The U.S. is giving haven this year to about 25,000 Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution, as well as to tens of thousands of Christians," he pointed out. "This is more than are being admitted to any other country in the world during 1947."

United Service, Mr. Bettman disclosed, now has the largest case load of people receiving economic aid, family services and guidance of any voluntary agency in the country. The various types of direct economic and rehabilitative assistance represented by far the largest part of the agency's expenditures, accounting for \$7,278,000 of the 1947 outlay of \$9,000,000, and for \$11,102,000 of the estimated expenditures for 1948, he said.

CLEVELAND, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- By welcoming refugee newcomers as "new neighbors" and aiding them to start on the road to normal life and American citizenship, the people of the midwest support the Government in its efforts to bring about a solution of the worldwide problem of displaced persons, Mrs. Louis Broido, chairman of the policy committee of U.S.N.A. and vice-president of the New York section of the National Council of Jewish Women, declared in an address today at a U.S.N.A. regional conference here. Carlos L. Israels, of New York, treasurer of U.S.N.A., told the meeting that government and private surveys have shown that the immigrants rapidly adjust to American life and make valuable contributions to the country.

CONGRESS SAYS CONSTITUENT BODIES MUST YIELD SOME AUTONOMY IF PERMANENT CONFERENCE SET UP

NEW YORK, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- If a permanent body is to emerge from the American Jewish Conference, "national organizations must surrender some of their sovereignty to the new body," Israel Teitelbaum, speaking in behalf of the American Jewish Congress, said today at a Greater New York area meeting called to explore the possibilities of transforming the American Jewish Conference into a permanent organization.

The Congress, Dr. Isaac Toubin declared, feels "that unimpaired maintenance of organizational autonomy will rob the new organization of its democratic character." The meeting was one of a series called throughout the country to explore the possibilities of setting up a new, permanent group. The question will be decided in Chicago, when the Conference holds its fourth annual session from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1st. Among today's speakers were Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Louis Lipsky and Dr. Maurice Eisendrath.

AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR POLISH JEWS PARLEY VOTES TO ESTABLISH COLONY IN PALESTINE

ATLANTIC CITY, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- The American Federation of Polish Jews concluded its 38th annual convention here today after adopting a resolution to raise \$500,000 towards the establishment of a Polish Jewish colony in Palestine. Dr. Joseph Sonnenbaum, honorary president, was re-elected and will serve as acting president until the next convention.

Other resolutions adopted asked passage of the Stratton Bill, unrestricted Jewish immigration to Palestine and immediate adoption of the UNSCOP majority report.

LEHMAN URGES RELIGION BE MOTIVATING FORCE BEHIND AMERICAN AID TO EUROPE

NEW YORK, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- Declaring that "religion's challenge to peace and brotherhood remains largely unheeded," former Gov. Herbert H. Lehman, speaking here today from the pulpit of Central Synagogue to a nationwide radio audience over the message of Israel program, called upon Americans of all faiths to make "the spirit of religion the major motivation force behind our endeavors to succor suffering humanity."

Mr. Lehman was the guest lay speaker on the American Jewish Cavalcade program, under the auspices of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, oldest organized Jewish religious body in America comprising 350 Liberal Jewish congregations in 47 states. The American Jewish Cavalcade is dedicating the months of November, December and January to a religious revival endeavor. More than 60 Reform rabbis will visit scores of communities, where in collaboration with local congregations a "dynamic religious coordination program" will be instituted.

BENJAMIN EPSTEIN NAMED NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF B'NAI B'RITH ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

NEW YORK, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- Election of Benjamin R. Epstein of New York as national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith was announced today by State Supreme Court Justice Meier Steinbrink, national chairman of the organization. Mr. Epstein succeeds Richard E. Gutstadt of Chicago, who held the post for 15 years and who has been elected executive vice-chairman of the League. Mr. Gutstadt has been on a leave of absence since May because of ill health.