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JEWISH AGENCY DENIES HAGANAH-IRGUN MERGER TALKS; ARABS GETTING ARMS TAKEN FROM JEWS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18. (JTA)--The Jewish Agency today denied reports circulating throughout Palestine that intensive negotiations have been proceeding for a merger of the Haganah and the Irgun. Other sources said negotiations had been initiated, but had fallen through.

A Haganah broadcast tonight charged that arms found on two Arabs killed last night in an exchange with a Haganah patrol in the vicinity of the Hebrew University had been earlier seized from Haganah by the British police. The broadcast asked "how did Jewish defense arms get into the hands of Arab bands." It said that the two dead Arabs were well known leaders of Arab terrorist units during the 1936-1939 outbreaks and gave their names as Mohammed Saleh Halal and Abdullah el Halal.

The broadcast also said that Arab bands operating around Jerusalem had planned to invade the Jewish quarters of the Old City and wipe out the inhabitants, but had been repulsed by the Haganah. It repeated its warning to the population to beware of British spies, who, it said, were posing as members of the Haganah and seeking vital information.

Truce Between Jewish Town and Arab Villages Broken When Jew Killed

A truce between the Jewish town of Holon, south of Tel Aviv, and neighboring Arab villages, which was negotiated under dramatic circumstances yesterday through the intervention of the local British district commissioner, was broken this morning when Arab snipers killed one Jew and wounded another. The truce, originally set to allow the Arabs to evacuate ill and aged persons from the no-man's land around Holon and to enable the Jews to search for the body of a Holon resident who had been killed in a skirmish several days ago, was extended for what was intended to be an indefinite period when the Arab and Jewish mayors agreed to the commissioner's suggestion.

Other casualties reported today were Emanuel Weiner, 38, who was found dead this morning near the Arab village of Silnan, outside the Old City, and an unidentified Arab whose body was found near the New gate walls in Jerusalem. Three Arabs were wounded by police when they attacked a freight train between Rasel Ain and Ydda. An oil dump was fired by explosives in the Arab village of Tayibeh and the village's water supply cut.

It was reported today that Emil Ghouri, a leading member of the Arab Higher Committee, was manhandled by an Arab crowd last Saturday when he arrived at the scene of an explosion near Damascus gate where an Irgun grenade killed several Arabs. Shouting "you're to blame for this," the angered Arabs beat up both Ghouri and his bodyguard.

Although the Moslem Brotherhood's office in Jerusalem has been serving for two weeks as the main rallying center for Arab bands operating in the

and the main distribution point for arms, it was only today that police actually discovered Arabs obtaining arms there. A police detachment spied Arabs loading arms in the office into a stolen taxi. When they approached, the Arabs sped off, leaving behind a sack of rifle ammunition.

A British officer in charge of a supply depot in Jerusalem was stabbed today at the Jaffa Gate by a gang of Arabs wearing armbands. The self-styled guards to the Arab quarters halted the officer and forced him to identify himself after which they attacked him.

Jewish Police Seize Lebanese Arabs Infiltrating Across Border

Jewish settlement police at the Dan settlement on Palestine's northern border arrested three Lebanese Arabs, one possessing arms, on lands belonging to the colony. This is the first confirmation of reports that Lebanese have been making their way into Palestine to join guerrilla bands.

The Arab press almost daily reports "successful desertions" of Arab policemen who take arms and ammunition with them when they flee to join roving gangs of gunmen. Today the newspapers told of five supernumerary policemen who fled with rifles and 1,000 rounds of ammunition. They reported that a 40-minute battle ensued when British policemen attempted to halt them. The Arabs eventually escaped taking only three rifles.

It is known that many supernumerary policemen have deserted with their arms--in one case with several hundred weapons--but the British are not announcing the fact. When confronted by pointed questions from newspapermen, a government information officer stated that a supernumerary policeman is not judged a deserter until he is missing for 21 days.

Indications that many of the attacks on Jewish settlements are launched by roving gangs rather than by local Arabs was seen in a police report of yesterday's attack on the Negev colony of Nevatim which stated that when police detachments arrived on the scene six hours after the attack was launched Arabs were leaving the battlefields in trucks. The local Arab mayor insisted that the raiders came from Lebanon.

Haganah Planes Seek Arab Guerrilla Hideouts In Negev

Several Haganah planes circled the skies above the Negev settlements today, first taking out wounded and sick people to hospitals and dropping supplies because all roads to the colonies have been cut and, secondly, searching for the Arab guerrillas in an attempt to ferret out their hideouts and to estimate the strength of the units. The planes had a visible effect on the Bedouins, who scattered in fear of possible air raids.

Revisionist leader Ariele Altman at a press conference today in Tel Aviv, charged the Jewish Agency with failure to effectively defend the Jewish community. He demanded an immediate change in defense tactics and accused the Agency of having returned negotiations for unity between the Haganah and the Irgun. Altman also demanded the immediate establishment of a Supreme Jewish Council to deal with emergency matters arising out of the present situation.

ARGENTINE ZIONISTS PLAN \$2,000,000 FOUR-WEEK DRIVE FOR HAGANAH; SUSPEND OTHER DRIVES

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 18. (JTA)--A four-week whirlwind campaign to raise \$2,000,000 for the Haganah has been decided upon by Zionist leaders here. All Zionist fund-raising drives will suspend temporarily as of Jan. 15 to allow full mobilization of forces behind the Haganah drive.

FIRST MEETING OF U.N. PALESTINE IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION TO TAKE PLACE NEXT MONTH

LAKE SUCCESS, Dec. 18. (JTA)--The first meeting of the five-member U.N. Implementation Commission for Palestine will take place January 7, U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie announced today at a press conference. Mr. Lie added that he had notified the governments of Bolivia, Panama, Philippines, Denmark and Czechoslovakia--the member states of the commission--of the date of the meeting.

Thus far, only Bolivia has acknowledged receipt of the information, and he has informed the U.N. that her representative on the Palestine body will be named within a few days. Beside Karel Lisicky of Czechoslovakia--who was appointed almost immediately after the U.N. adopted the partition plan--no other members of the commission have been designated. Mr. Lie stated that the commission will spend considerable time at Lake Success before it leaves for Palestine because it has much planning to do. He announced that the Secretariat staff which will assist the commission has already been assigned.

Finally, Mr. Lie denied receiving protests from the Jewish Agency against the British time-table for evacuating Palestine. He stated that he has received no notice from the British as to when the commission may enter Palestine.

CONGRESS GETS RESOLUTION URGING U.S. TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR DP'S TO PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18. (JTA)--A resolution calling on the United States Government to provide shipping and funds for the transportation of 210,000 displaced Jews in the American zones of Germany and Austria to Palestine, was introduced in Congress today by Reps. Andrew L. Somers of New York and Hugh D. Scott of Pennsylvania. The measure also asks the closing of all DP camps by October 1, 1948.

At a press conference later, where he was questioned about the small percentage of Jewish DP's who prefer to enter the U.S. rather than Palestine, Somers declared that he thought it better for all the Jews to be taken to Palestine as rapidly as possible and those who wanted to come to America could do so subsequently. As to the omission from the resolution of provision for the care of the DP's after they arrive in Palestine, he said that Jewish leaders had promised that an all-out effort would be made to care for them and integrate them into the Palestinian economy.

Authoritative circles here consider the Somers-Scott resolution, despite its good intentions, as endangering the present haven which the DP's have in the American zones. They also feel that so large a number of DP's cannot be transported in the proposed three-month period between establishment of the Jewish State and the October 1 deadline, particularly since the necessary housing and other accommodations in Palestine would not be ready in time.

ARAB LEAGUE COMMUNIQUE ON PALESTINE INTERPRETED IN CAIRO AS DEFEAT FOR EXTREMISTS

CAIRO, Dec. 18. (JTA)--The bellicose, but vague statement issued here last night at the conclusion of the ten-day session of the Arab League Council on Palestine was being interpreted today by informed observers as an indication that the Arab states have not rejected the principle of partition per se. The communique dwelt on the inequities in the U.N. General Assembly's partition plan, and did not spell out opposition to any partition scheme as such.

Arab moderates greeted the communique with relief, while extremists, such as the fanatical Moslem League, were disappointed. In an apparent attempt to explain away the communique's vagueness, Abdul Rahman Azzam Pasha, secretary-general of the Arab League, said today that the conferees had arrived at 17 decisions which were not being revealed in order that the Zionists might not make capital of them.

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NEW CACHE OF JEWISH GOODS LEFT BEHIND BY EMIGRANTS DISCOVERED IN BUCHAREST WAREHOUSES

BUCHAREST, Dec. 18. (JTA)--Checking the contents of the Bucharest custom warehouses the authorities discovered a large quantity of valuables, furs and clothing left behind by Jews who fled the country during the Antonescu regime.

Jewish organizations are asking the government to turn over the articles to the Federation of Jewish Communities to be used for aiding needy Jews.

LONDON FASCISTS RAID HEADQUARTERS OF JEWISH DEFENSE GROUP; LABORITES ASK ACTION

LONDON, Dec. 18. (JTA)--A group of armed fascists attempted last night to break into the headquarters of the "43 Group," militant Jewish ex-servicemen who act as defense squads at fascist meetings, but were frightened away before they could force an entry. Police are hunting for them.

The national executive committee of the Labor Party decided today to ask Labor Secretary James Chuter Ede to receive a delegation to discuss renewed fascist activities in Britain.

SOUTH AFRICAN MAGISTRATE FINES ADMITTED NAZI FOR INCITING VIOLENCE AGAINST JEWS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Dec. 18. (JTA)--Reuben C. Saayman, an avowed Nazi, has been fined \$40 or one month in prison for publicly inciting violence against Jews. The sentence was passed in a local Magistrate's Court after policemen read excerpts from a speech Saayman made recently on the steps of the City Hall.

During the course of a public meeting, the defendant attacked both Jews and Negroes and stated in response to shouts of "Nazi" from the audience: "If we are Nazis, we are at least white Nazis." Saayman also attacked the Jews as Communists.

NINETEEN GERMAN BOYS ARRESTED FOR DESECRATING JEWISH CEMETERY IN SOVIET ZONE

MUNICH, Dec. 18. (JTA)--The arrest of 13 German boys between the ages of eight and fourteen for committing vandalism in the Jewish cemetery in Oranienburg, south of Berlin, has been reported from the Soviet zone. At Bruehl, in the British zone, 23 tombstones have been damaged and overturned in a new outbreak of vandalism.

A group of former inmates of the Dachau concentration camp have organized and announced that they will take legal action to take title to a medical plant farm that was once part of the camp grounds. They point out that the project, valued at over \$300,000, was built and operated by prisoners.

An interdenominational ceremony was held in Stuttgart at the unveiling of a simple stone monument in memory of the 2,500 members of the city's Jewish community who were murdered by the Nazis. Jewish and German officials attended.

SOCIAL SCIENTISTS FIND RACIAL SEGREGATION HARMFUL TO ALL GROUPS, A.J.C. POLL ESTABLISHES

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA)--Hundreds of leading American social scientists believe that racial and religious segregation is harmful to all groups involved, it was revealed here today by the American Jewish Congress Commission on Community Relations following the completion of a survey among more than 500 psychologists, sociologists and anthropologists.

ARGENTINE JEWS COLLECT \$500,000 FOR OVERSEAS RELIEF; GOAL IS \$1,750,000

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 18. (JTA)--A total of 2,000,000 pesos (\$500,000) has been collected toward the United Assistance Organization's goal of 7,000,000 pesos for overseas relief, reconstruction and resettlement, David Groisman, president of the organization, announced. The campaign was launched last June 22.

At a press conference sponsored by the relief organization, which distributes overseas aid through the World Jewish Congress and the Joint Distribution Committee, Prof. Joseph Sack, head of a delegation of the Central Jewish Committee of Poland, which is touring South America to acquaint the Jews there with the needs of Polish Jewry, declared that 85 percent of the assistance reaching Polish Jews is provided by the J.D.C.

Prof. Sack stated that the economic position of Polish Jews is still precarious. The Poale Zionist leader also stated that the danger of pogroms is past, but added that it was vitally important to Jewry that the present western borders of Poland not be changed in favor of Germany.

U.S. AMBASSADOR ATTENDS J.D.C. PARTY FOR JEWISH ORPHANS IN PARIS

PARIS, Dec. 18. (JTA)--The "vast job now being done by the Joint Distribution Committee in aiding Europe's Jews" was praised here by U.S. Ambassador Jefferson Caffrey at a Chanukah party tendered by the J.D.C. to some 2,000 orphaned Jewish children.

Ambassador Caffrey also distributed toys and candy provided by the J.D.C. to the children. Similar parties were held throughout Europe with more than 300 parties being given in various DP camps and centers and in German communities for 5,000 children between the ages of four and sixteen.

JEWS STATE MUST BE AIDED BY FOREIGN CAPITAL AS WAS U.S., LEHMAN TELLS PEC DINNER

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA)--A parallel between the growth of the United States with the aid of friends abroad and imported capital and the possibilities for development of the Jewish state in Palestine with similar assistance was drawn here tonight by former Gov. Herbert H. Lehman, addressing a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria to mark his election to the honorary chairmanship of the board of directors of the Palestine Economic Corporation.

Gov. Lehman said that the industry and skill of the Jews in Palestine had enabled them to develop a flourishing community which furnished a safe and wise investment for foreign capital, particularly from the U.S. He stressed the necessity of stepping up the pace of such investments now that a Jewish state is imminent. The former UNRRA director lauded the activities of the Palestine Economic Corporation over the past quarter-century. Other speakers included Israel B. Brodie, vice-chairman of the board of directors, Robert Szold, board chairman, Nathan Strauss and Samuel Cherr.

CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO RAISE \$250,000 FOR EXPANSION OF MENTAL HOSPITAL IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA)--A campaign to raise \$250,000 for the erection of a new building for the Hospital for Mental Diseases of Jerusalem was launched here at the Hotel Savoy Plaza held under the auspices of the American Fund for Palestinian Institutions.

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