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HAGANAH AND IRGUN SIGN AGREEMENT FOR JOINT OPERATIONS; STERNISTS NOT YET INCLUDED

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Haganah and the Irgun this morning signed an agreement placing the extremists' forces under the command of the Haganah. Negotiations are reported proceeding to include the Stern Group in the unified defense set up, but no decision has been reached.

Under the agreement, the Irgun retains its own forces, but it will refrain from separate operations and obey the orders of the Haganah Supreme Command which, incidentally, has announced the opening of a military college with 200 students. The agreement should have the effect of cutting down attacks on troops and police, since it bars the Irgun from attacking the British or the Arabs.

The Haganah-Irgun unity comes after more than a year of desultory negotiations--which were broken off on several occasions--and under the pressure of increasing Arab attacks, which today cost the life of a top Agency official and nearly resulted in the death of Mrs. Goldie Meirson, Agency political chief, in Jerusalem.

Agency Youth Immigration Chief Killed; Meirson Wounded in Convoy Attack

Hans Beyt, head of the Agency's youth immigration department, was killed when a Tel Aviv-Jerusalem convoy was attacked by Arabs near Mount Castel. Mrs. Meirson, who was travelling in the same convoy, was grazed by a bullet and her bodyguard, Haganah Warrant Officer Abraham Filman, was seriously wounded. Itzhak Gruenbaum, executive member, who was travelling with Mrs. Meirson, was uninjured, although several others were wounded. Another Tel Aviv-Jerusalem convoy was attacked at Babel and several passengers wounded, while two Jews were wounded when their vehicles were attacked in Upper Galilee.

The heaviest casualties were suffered a few miles outside of Jerusalem by a convoy bound for Artuf, which is about 17 miles west of Jerusalem. Four of the 29 passengers were killed and five wounded. The others fled from their vehicles, and were picked up by passing troops.

The minor-scale warfare going on in Haifa, which Jewish sources estimate cost the lives of four Jews and 40 Arabs yesterday, continued sporadically during the night and broke out in full-scale violence again this morning. As of this afternoon three Jewish residents had been killed and several wounded, but there were no reports of casualties suffered by the Haganah inside the city.

Commander of Haganah Unit Killed in Action

However, a Haganah unit attacking an Arab position on the road between Haifa and Kiriat Eliahu lost its commander, Joseph Bardas, 22, when it was met by withering fire. The second-in-command of the unit was wounded, but the Jews succeeded in driving off the Arabs, inflicting heavy casualties in the process. In another encounter in the same neighborhood, a squad of the Palmach, Haganah's crack troops, engaged an

Arab band, killing one and wounding several more. The survivors fled, leaving behind some of their arms.

At Tel Amal, a short distance outside of Haifa, armed Arabs killed Bela Perl, 63, and eight-year-old Margalith Mizrahi, who was on the way to school. The attackers were driven off by a Haganah defense squad.

Another child, five-year-old Malka Skandrion, was killed when an Arab bullet penetrated the dining room of her home in the Hatikvah quarter of Tel Aviv, which has again become the scene of heavy fighting. A Haganah guard, Itzhak Franco, 20, was killed in the same area and fighting was continuing. Attacks were also launched on Tel Aviv's suburbs, including Bat Yam and the Zablavi quarter, but were repulsed by the Haganah.

200 Syrians Under German Officers Participating in Haifa Battles

The Haifa area battles are the result of the arrival in the city and its environs of 200 well-trained "shock troops" from Syria, under the command of five German officers, a Haganah spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. He said that the Germans were apparently familiar with Haifa and established an "attack belt" of seven well fortified positions in various parts of the city, from which snipers kept up a constant fire. From time to time, the Arabs mass and launch large-scale attacks and then resume the sniping.

The spokesman said that the British police and troops continue to hamper the Haganah's attempts to fight off the Arabs. He also revealed that when the chairman of the Haifa Jewish Community Council demanded protection for the Jews in the city, the local district commissioner told him that the Jews should first cease fire.

Seventy Jewish prisoners were transferred from the Jaffa prison today to a jail in Tel Aviv. The move, which followed grenade attacks on Jewish prisoners by Arabs during the past two days, was carried out during curfew hours and under the strictest secrecy. Jewish women prisoners at Beithlehem are scheduled to be transferred Sunday to a new jail at Atlit which is still under construction.

Arabs Raiding Freight Trains to Get Food for Guerrilla Units

Arab guerrillas last night held up a freight train near Tulkarm and escaped with 800 sacks of flour and rice, which they carried off in 40 trucks. The recent attacks on food trains are believed to be motivated by the necessity for the Arabs to build up huge reserves for their guerrilla units.

Mystery surrounds the killing last night of two British soldiers seated in a Tel Aviv seaside cafe and the wounding of two others. Jewish sources claim that a British armored car was dashing about in the vicinity and quote one of the wounded as stating that he believed the car accidentally fired a burst into the cafe. The official account blamed the attack on the Sternists. The bodies of two Britons were found in Haifa during the night; they are believed to have been killed by Arabs.

The headquarters of the Red Mogen David has sent letters to all Arab mayors, mukhtars, heads of local councils and to the local press drawing attention to the fact that Mogen David ambulances have been fired on while picking up wounded and dead. The letters point out that the organization performs the functions of the Red Cross in Palestine and asks that its neutrality be respected, since it extends aid to all persons without regard to whether they are Arabs or Jews. The organization has also announced that it is establishing a blood bank to meet current extraordinary needs, and has appealed for volunteer donors.

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ISRAELI ACQUIRE SARONA LAND FOR TEL AVIV EXPANSION; \$9,000,000 EARMARKED FOR REPARATIONS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Large-scale expansion of Tel Aviv was foreseen today following the joint acquisition by the Jewish National Fund and the Tel Aviv municipality of some 4,600 dunams (1,150 acres) of land in the Sarona colony which was founded by Germans in 1870 and which served as a Nazi stronghold in Palestine prior to the outbreak of the war. During the war Sarona became the site of a detention camp for German nationals residing in Palestine.

The purchase will increase Tel Aviv's municipal area by nearly one-third. The Sarona settlers, all Germans, have now returned to Germany or are preparing to migrate to Australia. Negotiations for the transaction were carried on for over a year with the Colonial Office in London and with the Palestine Government which, since the outbreak of the war, acted as legal trustee for the Sarona land as well as of other German property in Palestine.

The price of the land, set by the Palestine Government, was \$9,000,000. The money will be transferred by the government to a reparations fund under the authority of the Allied War Reparations Commission. The Jewish National Fund supplied \$6,000,000 toward the purchase price, the largest amount ever invested by the J.N.F. in promotion of urban development.

The purchase agreement, signed by Dr. Abraham Granovsky on behalf of the J.N.F., and by Mayor Israel Rokach on behalf of the Tel Aviv municipality, opens the possibilities for the city's expansion which was previously hindered by Sarona which lies to the east and northeast of Tel Aviv, both of which are natural directions for the growth of the all-Jewish city. Sarona's position necessitated detours in expansion of the city, caused numerous difficulties in planning for a greater Tel Aviv, and resulted in soaring prices of land in the neighboring area.

Area May Become Seat of Government of Jewish State

Since the purchase now permits systematic development of Tel Aviv and will act as a check on inflated land prices by ensuring national ownership of the area vital to the city's expansion, plans were being mapped today for the immediate use of the land. More than 2,200 dunams were earmarked for housing projects, about 800 dunams were set aside for an industrial center and the remainder will be used as a site for public buildings, apparently in anticipation of the concentration of Jewish state government offices there. Of the 4,600 dunams, the J.N.F.'s share comes to about 2,700 dunams. In all, the former German colony's land totals 6,200 dunams. The portion which was not acquired by the Jews, consisting mostly of rural land, remains under the custodianship of the Palestine Government.

Sarona was founded before any modern Jewish settlement in Palestine. Until the time of Hitler's rise to power in Germany, relations between the German settlers in Sarona and Jewish colonists in the neighborhood were friendly. With the growth of Nazi influence in the world, Sarona became a nest of Nazism and served as an organizing center for Arab pre-war disturbances. The chief of Hitler's experts on the extermination of the Jews in Europe was the Sarona-born Adolf Eichmann.

EGYPTIAN POLICE INVESTIGATING BOMBING OF JEWISH STEAMER AT PORT SAID

CAIRO, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Egyptian police were today investigating the bombing of the Palestine Jewish freighter Alisa in Port Said last night. The explosion caused considerable damage to the ship's rudder, but the only known casualty was a watchman on a barge which was tied alongside the steamer.

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WISH CONFERENCE IN GERMANY RECOMMENDS USE OF RESTITUTION FUNDS TO AID NAZI VICTIMS

FRANKFURT, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Various problems involved in the recovery of priceless Jewish property were the center of discussion here today at a conference of Jewish leaders in the U.S. zone of Germany, as a result of the restitution law recently decreed by Gen. Lucius Clay, American Military Governor.

The conference adopted a resolution recommending that property and funds of Jews killed by the Germans during the Nazi regime be used to aid other victims of Nazism. "We do not wish to enjoy the inheritance of brothers and sisters who were swept away by the Hitler state and from whom we would not have inherited anything in normal times," the resolution said.

JEWISH COMMUNAL LIFE IN POLAND REPORTED STABILIZED; FARMERS BECOME SELF-SUPPORTING

WARSAW, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Jewish communal life in Poland is becoming more and more stabilized, it was reported here today by Dr. David Kahane, leader of Polish Orthodox Jewry, following a tour of various Jewish communities throughout the country.

Dr. Kahane said that there are today 85 Jewish Community Councils functioning in various parts of Poland. Their activities are devoted largely to filling the religious needs of the Jews. The activities of the central body directing the work of the councils are financed partly by the Polish Government. He also revealed that during the last two years about 1,000 Jewish boys were born in Poland, but did not indicate the number of Jewish girls born.

A report on the activities of Jewish cooperative farms in Lower Silesia, published today, reveals that Jewish farmers there had an exceptionally good crop of potatoes and sugar-beets this year which will permit them to enjoy a prosperous winter, and also leave them with several million zlotys in cash.

The Central Jewish Committee originally advanced loans of over a million zlotys to Jewish cooperative farms to give them a start. However, at present the position of the farms is stabilized and new Jewish agricultural settlements are springing up, especially in the Wroclaw district.

JEWISH PROFESSORS AT PRAGUE UNIVERSITY RECEIVE TEMPORARY PENSIONS

PRAGUE, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Jewish professors at the former German university of Prague are now receiving temporary pensions, pending legal adjudication of the entire question of pensions, which was complicated as the result of discriminatory legislation passed during the German occupation, it was announced here today.

The Council of Jewish Communities has received a curious bill from the municipality of Volary, Slovakia, claiming repayment of about \$1,000 allegedly spent for burying Jewish victims of the Nazis who died at Volary while being moved from one concentration camp to another. The Council referred the bill to the Ministry of Social Welfare.

SOVIET NEWS AGENCY APPLIES FOR PERMISSION TO OPEN OFFICE IN PALESTINE

CAIRO, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The official Soviet news agency, Tass, has applied to the British authorities in Palestine for permission to open an office there. At present Tass covers Palestine developments from its office here.

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AGUDAS ISRAEL SENDING MISSION TO SWEDEN TO PREVENT BAPTISM OF JEWISH REFUGEE GIRLS

LONDON, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Agudas Israel has sent a two-man mission to Sweden to bring back to England a group of Jewish refugee girls, following reports that many of the girls were taken into non-Jewish homes and subsequently baptized, or, in the case of the older ones, married to non-Jews. The girls will be housed in Beth Shalom institutions here.

Speaking to the executive council of the French branch of the Agudah, at a meeting in Paris, H.A. Goodman, political secretary of the organization, disclosed that consultations with the Jewish Agency are being held in Jerusalem regarding joint action on the future status of the city. The World Agudah is demanding that the Jewish religious community of Jerusalem retain its independence and not be considered part of the Jewish community of the new Jewish state, so that it may deal with the newly-appointed municipal authorities as an independent entity.

ABOUT HALF OF ALL JEWS IN EUROPE AND AFRICA REQUIRE RELIEF, SURVEY ESTABLISHES

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Almost 50 percent of all the Jews living in Europe and Africa are in need of relief, according to a survey made public here today by the World Jewish Congress. The survey, which does not include the Soviet Union, estimates that of a total of about 1,714,000 Jews living in Rumania, Hungary, Germany, France, Poland, Italy, Austria, Greece, Trieste, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Tripolitania, at least 798,500 are considered in need.

The survey says that there is a general need of warm clothing for men, women and children, particularly in view of an anticipated hard winter. Food items, such as powdered milk, dried eggs, cocoa, fats, sugar, rice and chocolates are also required. Most urgently needed are medicaments, such as liver drugs, vitamin pills, penicillin and calcium. Kurt R. Grossman, executive director of the World Jewish Congress' Committee for Overseas Relief Supplies, also reported today that in Poland, Austria, Berlin, and Greece, there still remain 12,257 Jewish children, or 8.1 percent of the total Jewish population of 154,593 in those areas.

JEWS CHILDREN HIDE THEIR RELIGION AS RESULT OF RELIGIOUS TEACHING IN SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- In schools where released time for religious instruction is part of the public school program Jewish children occasionally attend Christian religious classes for fear of disclosing their differences of religious belief, Leo Pfeffer, assistant director of the American Jewish Congress Commission on Law and Social Action, declares in a pamphlet, "Religion and the Public Schools," published today.

Pfeffer, a leading authority on problems of church and state in the U.S., also reports that public school authorities are often guilty of proselytizing and other forms of pressure to obtain enrollments in religious classes. Charging that released time represents a threat to the principle of church and state, he declares that the extent of religious instruction which can be imparted in the limited time available under the released time program is negligible.

GILLETTE RESIGNS PRESIDENCY OF AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR A FREE PALESTINE

CHEROKEE, Iowa, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Former Senator Guy M. Gillette, upon his return here from a trip to Los Angeles and San Francisco, announced that he is resigning as president of the American League for a Free Palestine as of January 1.

In making the announcement, Gillette declared that he believes immediate developments with regard to Palestine must rest with the partition decision adopted by the U.N. General Assembly. While in Los Angeles and San Francisco, the former Senator delivered addresses on the Palestine problem.

CH GOVT. ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE \$70,000 FOR SCHOOL IN MASARYK COLONY IN PALESTINE

PRAGUE, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Budget Committee of the Czechoslovak parliament has received a recommendation from its rapporteur that it accept a resolution urging the government to contribute 3,500,000 crowns (approximately \$70,000) to a school to be erected in the Palestine colony of Kfar Masaryk.

The authorities last year promised the Council of Jewish Communities in Bohemia and Moravia that the government would donate the sum for the institution, which is to be named for the late Thomas Masaryk, first president of Czechoslovakia.

THREE DAY CONFERENCE OF COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM WILL CONSIDER RELATION TO JEWISH STATE

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- A three-day national conference of the American Council for Judaism will consider "the relationship of Americans of Jewish faith to the newly created Jewish state," it was announced here today by Elmer Berger, executive director of the Council.

The conference, which is to open on Jan. 17, will also take up "other questions that have arisen in the wake of partition of Palestine," the announcement said. Delegates from twenty states are expected to attend. They will also consider what steps may be taken to assure the admission to the United States of a fair share of the displaced persons of all faiths and many nationalities.

\$150,000 RAISED FOR ERECTION OF INTER-FAITH CHAPEL IN PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Approximately \$150,000 has been raised toward the construction of an inter-faith chapel here to honor four chaplains of the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant faiths who died aboard a torpedoed troop transport in 1943 after they had given their life preservers to soldiers who had none.

The chapel, which will be known as the "Chapel of the Four Chaplains," will honor Baptist Rev. Clark V. Poling, Methodist Rev. George L. Fox, Catholic Rev. John P. Washington and Rabbi Alexander Goode.

JEWISH INDUSTRIALIST IN MEXICO DONATES 1,000,000 PESOS TO PALESTINE FUND

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Oscar Kohn, Jewish industrialist who arrived here from Poland five years ago, has donated 1,000,000 pesos, approximately \$200,000, to the Jewish National Fund as an expression of his readiness to help in the establishment of the Jewish state, it was announced here today.

JNB TO HOLD PARLEY OF JEWISH CENTER LEADERS NEXT MONTH TO DISCUSS CONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The National Jewish Welfare Board will sponsor a conference of Jewish center leaders in New York January 18 to study conditions facing Jewish organizations planning construction programs in over 100 communities throughout the country, it was announced here. Philip M. Klutznick, chairman of the Jewish center division committee of the JNB, and former head of the Federal Public Housing Authority, will preside.

LARGEST CLASS IN HISTORY OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM GRADUATED

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- A class of 104 members, the largest in the history of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has just been graduated from the institution, the American friends of the University announced today. In addition to the 104 masters degrees conferred, sixteen research students were awarded Doctorates in Philosophy.

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