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SHIPS CARRYING 15,000 IMMIGRANTS DOCK IN CYPRUS; 700 OTHERS BREAK THROUGH BLOCKADE

HAIFA, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- The immigrant ships Pan York and Pan Crescent dropped anchor today in the harbor of Famagusta, Cyprus, and British authorities immediately began disembarking the more than 15,000 Jews aboard the two vessels, which had been renamed the Independence and the Re-Assembly of the Dispersed.

About the same time, 700 other immigrants landed at Naharia, just south of the Lebanese border, after their vessel, the United Nations, had broken through the British blockade. Troop reinforcements were rushed to Naharia, and cordoned off the landing area, but by the time they arrived only 200 persons were on the shore. Haganah sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that these 200 were Palestinians who had assisted in the disembarkation, and that all of the refugees had been successfully moved into the interior before the troops came on the scene.

Port authorities estimated that the disembarkation would take three days. Among the passengers are reported to be 1,700 children, more than half of them under the age of five. Four thousand others are said to be youths under the age of 17, while the bulk of the remainder are chalutzim. Six babies were born during the five-day voyage from Burgas, Bulgaria, and an additional 10 are expected momentarily.

British boarding parties said that the organization and medical arrangements on the two ships were excellent, with 55 doctors among the refugees. At least one of the ships was commanded by an American in his twenties, apparently a Haganah volunteer. It was stated that refugees among the crews of the ships would be allowed to disembark at Cyprus, although the professional crews will be sent back.

(A Foreign Office spokesman said in London today that the ships, although sailing under no flag, following the Panamanian Government's cancellation of their registry, had committed no international offenses and had violated no immigration laws, since they did not enter Palestinian waters. He said it was probable that they would be allowed to leave Cyprus and would remain the property of their present owners.)

The vessels were boarded at sea yesterday by units of the Royal Navy. Their captains are understood to have offered no objection to the British command that they put in at Cyprus. It is believed that the Jewish Agency was agreeable to this procedure, since it was unlikely that the vessels had any chance of evading the British blockade of Palestine.

FOUR ARABS KILLED AS HAGANAH ATTACKS HAIFA IN REPRISAL FOR MASSACRE OF JEWS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- At least four Arabs and two Jews were killed at dawn this morning when the Haganah sent three picked squads into Arab villages on the outskirts of Haifa in what was described as a "punitive action" for the killing of 41 Jews in Haifa on Tuesday.

The figure of four Arabs killed was given by the police, but Haganah sources claimed that the death toll was considerably higher. Both agree that more than 30

Arabs had been wounded. The Haganah men "who failed to return" were 21-year-old Hayim Bender, son of the Jerusalem correspondent of the newspaper Davar, and Yochanan Zelinger, a former member of the Jewish Brigade.

Arab Attempt to Invade Tel Aviv Repulsed with Heavy Losses

Fighting also broke out in the Tel Aviv-Jaffa area when Haganah forces attacked a band of Arabs who were massing for an attack. After allowing the Arabs to approach several hundred yards, the Haganah counter-attacked, driving the invaders back to the Salameh quarter of Jaffa. Some militiamen then occupied several houses, confiscating all weapons found, while others continued after the fleeing Arabs, inflicting severe casualties.

A Haganah member, David Kagan, was sentenced to five years imprisonment today by a Jerusalem military court for carrying arms in Salameh on Dec. 6. Another Jew was given 15 years for possessing explosives.

Ten young Jews disguised as British soldiers, and believed to be members of the Irgun, entered Jaffa in a military truck and bombed an Arab cafe, causing 19 casualties.

Meanwhile attacks continued on Jewish buses in the Jerusalem area, and four passengers were wounded when Arab snipers opened up on a bus proceeding from the center of the city to the Givat Shaul quarter, on the outskirts. An Arab was killed when a group attempted to stop a police car in Jerusalem. A Jewish bus was also attacked in Haifa, with one minor casualty, while three other Jews were wounded in that city when Arabs blasted a cold storage plant.

Agency Executive Meets; Ben Gurion Says Jews Will Defend U.N. Decision

The spotlight shifted to the political scene this afternoon when the Jewish Agency executive conferred on the security situation here and the political situation both in Palestine and abroad. Moshe Shertok, political chief of the Agency, reported on recent developments at the United Nations and in Washington and London, while David Ben Gurion, executive chairman, discussed the general security situation. Mrs. Goldie Meirson, head of the Agency's political department in Jerusalem, reported on her recent contacts with the Palestine Government.

After the meeting, Ben Gurion issued a statement to the press in which he charged that "war has been declared against us and against the decision of the United Nations. Disciples of Nazis and fascists are attempting to incite Arabs in Palestine and neighboring countries against the Jews."

He said that "this declaration of war" has been ignored by the British authorities, who are not differentiating between the attackers and those attacked, and warned that "now we have no other way but to defend ourselves by use of our own forces. We have been drawn into a war of self-defense and will defend the Yishuv and the frontier of the Jewish State."

He added that the situation was worsened by the British insistence, "for reason which we suspect," on keeping Arab military forces in Palestine. Ben Gurion stressed, however, that "we never had and do not have a war with the Arab people."

Questioned concerning Dr. Moshe Shertok's resignation from the executive, allegedly because of differences as to the Agency's attitude towards the Soviet Union, Ben Gurion replied that "Zionist policy is based on the identity of views and unity of

the Soviet Union and the United States in support of the Jewish state as manifested in the General Assembly of the United Nations." Earlier, he expressed the belief that the U.S. and the USSR would not allow the U.N. decision to be flouted.

Begin Registration of Jewish Youth for Service with Armed Forces

Punctuating the Agency chairman's statement that the Jews would defend themselves, thousands of youths flocked to recruiting offices in Jerusalem today as registration of Jews between the ages of 17 and 25 for military service began. It was expected that 16,000 would register, of whom 10,000 will be called up immediately.

A Haganah broadcast tonight, in Arabic, again warned Arab villagers not to give shelter to armed gangs, since they would be regarded as equally guilty as those attacking Jews. At the same time, the broadcaster revealed that an extremist unit--not identified as Irgun or Sternist--attempted to kidnap an Englishman from the Park Hotel here, but was driven off by a Haganah squad, after an exchange of gunfire.

The recent Haganah-Irgun agreement may never be ratified as a result of the recent attacks by the Irgun, particularly the bombing of the Haifa refinery, which set off the massacre there. A Haganah leader in Haifa commented bitterly to the JTA that the Haganah would kill the perpetrators of the bombing, if they knew who they were.

The extremists cut sections of the Jaffa-Tel Aviv rail line today, after Arab engineers had disregarded their warnings to stop operating trains on the line.

Food, Transport and Rail Situation Deteriorating as Arab Attacks Grow

The food situation in the Jewish quarters of the Old City at Jerusalem is deteriorating as a result of the increasing attacks on Jewish vehicles, Mordecai Weingarten, mukhtar of the Jewish sector, complained today to the city's military commander, pointing out that Jewish supply convoys have not been able to reach the city for three successive days. Arabs have blocked the Jaffa Gate with barrels and large rocks and they have also erected strong points on the roads to the Old City along which convoys must pass.

Weingarten said that the Jewish supply caravans would reach the city, if the Arabs were not aided by the police and soldiers, who search convoys, confiscate arms and arrest drivers in possession of weapons for which they have permits. Many Arabs from neighboring states have recently infiltrated into the Old City indicating that an attack on the Jewish quarters is imminent, it was learned.

Three buses in succession proceeding from the Hebrew University to the city were attacked today near the Mufti's house. Three Jews were seriously wounded and three slightly. Occupants of the second bus replied to the Arab fire, killing one attacker. Constant attacks in the vicinity of the Hadassah-Rothschild hospital are endangering the country's biggest medical center where Jews, Christians and Moslems alike receive aid.

While Arabs were busy robbing four trains during the day, police busied themselves searching Jewish buses for arms and arrested two Haganah men on one vehicle. Simultaneously a combined police-soldier patrol searched another Jewish-owned bus, confiscated some arms and arrested six passengers and the driver.

One train was held up this morning by Arabs who made off with two wagon-loads of cement and two boxes of oranges. The same train was later robbed by another Arab band who stole whatever had been left by the first band. The third train was robbed by Arabs who made off with a safe containing an unspecified amount of money. The

fourth train was held up this afternoon not far from Jerusalem. The bandits got away with mail, potatoes, salt, oranges and cement supplies.

Jewish Dead Piling Up in Hospitals as Snipers Isolate Cemeteries

Chief Rabbi Herzog, discussing the impossibility of burying 24 Jewish dead who are at present in various hospitals, today told the Jerusalem district commissioner, H. Pollock, that "it could not happen in any civilized country." Snipers and members of the Transjordan Frontier Force are known to be attacking every Jewish corpse not only en route to the cemetery but during the burial ceremony in the cemetery.

Rabbi Herzog demanded that safe burial be provided for the deceased Jews and Pollock promised he would take the matter up with the government. Meanwhile, the Jewish burial societies here have ordered special coffins which preserve corpses, since some of the dead are considerably decayed. A temporary center, adjoining the war cemetery on the slopes of Mt. Scopus, is being prepared.

There is no telephone communication between Jerusalem and the rest of the country, except Tel Aviv, since Jewish operators at the central exchange have struck, following rejection of their demand that protection be provided for them both to and from the exchange.

It was officially reported today that Arabs have stolen mail from the United States as well as domestic mail. Jerusalem's Central Post Office is not operating, since both the Jewish and Arab employees have left their jobs reportedly because both groups are afraid of attacks from each other. At present, only members of the press corps here can send letters or file cables, all of which are routed through the Palestine Information Office.

Many other government departments have been virtually paralyzed. Those that are situated in Jewish sections are handicapped, because Arab personnel refuse to come and go without armed escort, while those in Arab districts face the same problem with Jewish employees. In some departments, such as the law courts, neither Jewish nor Arab employees are working.

The official casualty list from November 30th to January 1st reports that 204 Jews, 208 Arabs, six other civilians, 12 soldiers, two Transjordan Frontier Force members, five British policemen, one Arab policeman and 12 Jewish Settlement Policemen have been killed, while 407 persons have been seriously wounded and 593 slightly.

Egyptian Premier Queried on Flight of Nazi POW's to Arab Bands

A dispatch from Cairo says that Premier Nokrashi Pasha was questioned in Parliament as to what was happening to the German prisoners of war still held in Egypt. It is known that within the past few days police in Cairo and Alexandria have arrested many war prisoners who entered those cities after escaping from camps in the near-by desert. Many others, however, have reached Palestine, Syria and Lebanon, where they have joined Arab guerrilla units as military instructors.

The Mufti has succeeded in driving another of his opponents from the country. Mohammed Elmir Hawara, leader of the anti-Husseini Dejada group has fled after a warning from the Mufti's aides that his life was in danger. The Husseinites charged Hawara with having conferred with the Hagannah, but this was denied by Jewish leaders.

SPOKESMAN SAYS PALESTINE GOVT. FAVORS EARLY ARRIVAL OF U.N. COMMISSION'S SECRETARIAT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- A government spokesman stated tonight that while the government opposes the early arrival of the U.N. Implementation Commission, it hopes that the commission's staff, including Dr. Ralph Bunche and his assistants, will arrive in Palestine soon to facilitate the transfer of authority to the Commission.

Meanwhile it was learned here that the Commission is not expected for at least two months since the British insist on discussing the transfer of authority while the Commission is still at Lake Success.

BRITISH CABINET REPORTED READY TO RECONSIDER MANDATE TERMINATION, WITHDRAWAL PLANS

LONDON, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- It was reliably learned here today that the Cabinet will reconsider within the next two weeks the present plans for terminating the Palestine Mandate and evacuating the country.

The situation will be reviewed in light of the developments in Greece and Palestine and, as usual, opinions are divided between Colonial and Foreign Office circles.

While the Colonial Office officials advocate shortening the British stay in Palestine--partly under Iraqi pressure since intervention in Palestine is impossible as long as the British administration continues to function--and also wish to see the U.N. Commission arrive as soon as possible, the opposite view is held by the Foreign Office which is pressing for postponement of the troops' evacuation and delaying the Commission's arrival. It is understood that military circles in Palestine follow the Foreign Office line of thinking.

The hope that the U.N. Commission will come to London en route to Palestine was expressed in authoritative circles today, which emphasized that discussions with Foreign Office experts in London would facilitate arrangements for termination of the Mandate and the evacuation of British troops, since the Foreign Office officials will not participate in the Lake Success meetings of the Commission, as will representatives of the Colonial Office.

Arab Diplomats in London Pressing Plan to Negate U.N. Decision

Arab diplomats here, meanwhile, are reported by a reliable British source to be pushing the following five-point plan for defeating the U.N. partition decision with some support from "influential Cabinet ministers." The plan envisages:

Firstly, the U.N. General Assembly will be called and will postpone the date for implementing partition. Secondly, the Assembly will establish a kind of temporary rule for perhaps 12 months. In the third place, the British will be invited not to evacuate troops completely during this period, but to cooperate with the U.N. in assuring order.

At a later stage, the two remaining points of the program will be put forward by the Arab states. The fourth provides that the Assembly should decide what the partition plan has been found impracticable and must therefore be abandoned. Fifthly, some kind of solution based on Bevin's proposal for a "federalized" Palestine would be accepted by the Arabs.

IRO HEAD, IN NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE, URGES COUNTRIES TO OPEN DOORS TO DP'S IN 1948

GENEVA, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- In a New Year's message released here today, William H. Tuck, executive secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization, urged all nations "to open their doors to the European displaced persons in 1948, and thus end the tragic story of homelessness which began 15 years ago.

"Most DP's are young, productive men and women, skilled in vocations the world needs badly," Tuck declared. "Don't make them wait too long for a chance for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Tuck pointed out that the commission's statistical survey released last night shows that 87 percent of the DP's are under 45 years of age, proving that the vast majority of them are able to work and give full value to any nations far-sighted enough to admit them.

George L. Warren to Head U.S. Delegation to I.R.O. Parley

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- The United States delegation to the fifth part of the first session of the IRO Preparatory Commission will be headed by George L. Warren, it was announced yesterday by the State Department.

This meeting will consider establishing semi-judicial machinery on the eligibility of displaced persons as well as the budget for 1948-49.

NORWEGIAN WORKERS STOP SHIPMENT OF ARMS TO IRAN, IRAQ; MINISTER SUPPORTS ACTION

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- The iron and metal workers union in the Norwegian town of Rauffoss has unanimously voted to ban the shipment of munitions to Iran and Iraq, it was revealed here today in the current issue of "Norwegian Digest," published by the Royal Norwegian Information Service.

The union acted after learning that an order for munitions had been placed by the two Arab countries. Defense Minister Jens Hauge upheld the decision of the union, adding that no export of munitions was being considered by Norway.

NOTED ATTORNEY TO DEFEND JEWISH YOUTHS CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER OF FASCIST

LONDON, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Sir David Maxwell-Fyfe, formerly chief British prosecutor at the Nuremberg War Crimes trial, will head the defense of two Jewish youths, Gerald Flamberg and John Winborne, who have been charged with an attempt on the life of fascist leader John Preen, it was confirmed here today.

Laborite J.F.F. Platta-Mills, solicitor for the youths, demanded in court today that the case be disposed of as quickly as possible, declaring that the defendants are completely innocent. The youths are out on bail on condition that they do not attend any meeting of the "43 Group," Jewish veterans anti-fascist organization. The trial will open on Jan. 15th.

PRÆSIDIUM OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF LIBERATED JEWS IN U.S. ZONE WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION

BERCHTESGADEN, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- An agreement was reached today at the closing session of the meeting of the council of the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the U.S. zone under which the group's five-man præsidium, which resigned on Tuesday, will retain office until next month's zone-wide elections. The conference voted to intensify its training and employment programs to help prepare the displaced Jews for emigration to Palestine.

U.J.A. HELPED 60,000 HOMELESS EUROPEAN JEWS TO FIND NEW HOMES IN 1947

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Approximately 60,000 homeless European Jews, the majority of them DP's, were helped by the United Jewish Appeal to find new homes in Palestine, the United States and other lands in 1947, according to a year-end report made public today on the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement assistance extended to Europe's 1,500,000 remaining Jews by the U.J.A.

Of this number, 30,000 were resettled in Palestine, 25,000 in the United States and the remaining 5,000 in other countries, the report said. Funds for this mass migration, including the cost of preparing the emigrants for their journey and of their care, reception and resettlement upon arrival, were provided by the U.J.A. agencies, which spent a total of \$158,000,000 in 1947.

On the basis of present estimates, the agencies of the United Jewish Appeal are gearing their programs to provide for the resettlement needs of close to 125,000 European Jews in 1948, the report said. In accordance with the U.N. decision on Palestine, a minimum of 75,000 Jews are expected to enter the new Jewish state within the next twelve months and it is anticipated that a minimum of 25,000 displaced and refugee Jews will find a haven in the United States under existing immigration procedures, and several thousands will be able to find new homes in other lands.

The report stressed, however, that these were minimum estimates and that favorable legislation at the forthcoming session of Congress may permit a greatly expanded flow of refugees to this country, an action "which would have a salutary effect on the immigration policies of other nations." It estimated that the U.J.A. agencies will require \$113,000,000 in 1948 to finance the migration of Jews from Europe, aside from their other needs.

EUROPE'S JEWS MADE PROGRESS TOWARDS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL REVIVAL IN 1947, JDC REPORTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Heartening progress towards economic and social revival marked the year 1947 for Europe's Jews as the emphasis in assistance programs in their behalf began slowly to move from relief to reconstruction, it was reported today in a year-end review by Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee.

The JDC conducted the most extensive assistance operation ever undertaken by a voluntary, non-governmental agency, appropriating the record sum of \$75,092,000 in programs which brought aid to nearly 1,000,000 Jewish men, women and children in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and the Orient, Mr. Warburg stated.

Although the need for outright relief continued to dominate the situation confronting Europe's Jews, "excellent progress" was recorded in reconstructive efforts aimed at helping them earn their own livelihoods, Mr. Warburg reported. He revealed that a total of 103,000 persons, including dependents, were helped to full or partial self-support in 1947 through JDC-supported reconstruction activities throughout the continent.

Other major accomplishments of the JDC during the year, according to Mr. Warburg, include:

1. Providing all or part of their food to more than 750,000 Jewish men, women and children in nearly every country of Europe, through supplies distributions, 375 JDC canteens and feeding stations, relief grants and other assistance.
2. Bringing direct help to 132,000 Jewish children in Europe, including 30,000

youngsters, mainly orphans, aided in 327 JDC-supported children's homes, nurseries and other institutions.

3. Maintaining hundreds of schools and giving aid to a total of 85,000 Jewish youths in a broad educational program.

4. Expanding its medical activities, including shipments of medical equipment and supplies, to include the establishment or maintenance of 380 hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, sanatoria and convalescent homes, through which hundreds of thousands of Europe's Jews were able to find new health and strength.

5. Assisting 30,000 Jewish refugees to find new homes in Palestine, the United States, Latin America and other lands in a vast resettlement program which included paying transportation costs for the emigration of 11,000 certificated Jews to the Holy Land.

"The outstanding development affecting the Jews of Europe during 1947 was the United Nations decision on Palestine, forecasting a solution to the problem of homelessness for large numbers of Europe's Jews," Mr. Warburg stated. "This imposes grave responsibilities on the JDC, for expanded activities must be undertaken at once by JDC in order to fit these Palestine-bound persons for productive careers in the Holy Land." The JDC chairman pointed out, however, that even with the emigration of a possible 100,000 Jews to Palestine and other lands this year, the JDC will be faced with the necessity of providing large-scale assistance to those remaining.

JNF CONFERENCE TO MAP LAND PURCHASING PLANS FOR JEWISH STATE OPENS TODAY

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- More than 650 delegates of Jewish communities in 1,000 cities across the country gathered here today to participate in the Leaders Conference of the Jewish National Fund, which opens tomorrow at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

Scheduled to address a public session on Sunday--during which the new Jewish National Fund land program for Palestine will be announced--are Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv; Abraham Barzfeld, labor leader and colonization expert; Ambassador Jorge Garcia Granados, head of Guatemala's delegation to the United Nations General Assembly; Rabbi Meyer Berlin, president of the World Mizrahi Organization; Judge Morris Rothenberg, JNF president and other leaders.

HARRY FISCHEL, U.S. PHILANTHROPIST AND COMMUNAL LEADER, DIES IN PALESTINE; WAS 83

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Harry Fischel, well known American Jewish philanthropist and communal leader, died here today at the age of 83. Mr. Fischel, who had visited Palestine on several occasions, arrived here most recently last July to take up permanent residence. He was the founder of the Harry Fischel Foundation for Research in the Talmud, which is located in Jerusalem.

Mr. Fischel, who was born in Russia, came to the United States at the age of 20. After establishing himself in building and real estate enterprises, he became active in Jewish communal affairs. He was a leading figure in the HIAS, the American Jewish Committee, Yeshiva College, the Central Relief Committee of World War I and other groups. Last year, he founded and endowed the Harry Fischel Institute for Higher Jewish Studies at the Yeshiva University.

He leaves many survivors in the United States, including four daughters, 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was the father-in-law of Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein, former president of the Synagogue Council of America.

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