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BRITAIN DOES NOT INTEND TO RELINQUISH MANDATE BEFORE MAY 15; CONSULS MEET ON SECURITY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- A Palestine Government spokesman today officially denied reports which have appeared in the American press that the government is considering relinquishing the Mandate six weeks earlier than the scheduled date of May 15. These reports, the official stated, are "pure speculation with no foundation in fact."

All consuls in Jerusalem today met to discuss the security situation in Palestine inasmuch as the current developments affect the normal activities of their consulates. It was pointed out at the meeting that Jewish employees are not able to reach the consulates. The question of opening branches of the consulates in the Jewish sections of Jerusalem in order to enable Jews to maintain contact with the consuls was also discussed.

Jewish leaders today appealed to the government to impose a curfew on the Arab districts adjoining Hadassah hospital and the Hebrew University where Arab snipers are taking a heavy toll. Emphasizing that the road to the hospital is one of the most important sections of Jerusalem, since the institution is the largest in the country, the Jewish leaders pointed out that "searches for arms in the sniping areas would surely be in order."

The representations followed the cutting by Arabs of all telephone lines connecting the hospital and the Hebrew University with the rest of Jerusalem, and the killing of a Jewish nurse by Arab snipers who fired at an armored car escorting medical personnel from the hospital to the center of the city.

Arabs Determined to Cut Off Jerusalem; Sharp Battle Is Expected

The Arab Higher Executive is determined to cut off Jerusalem from the rest of the country at all costs, it was learned here today. An order has been issued to Arab guerrilla leaders to make preparations for an onslaught on the Jewish section of the city "to wipe out the Jews."

Upon learning of the order, the Haganah today increased its security measures in Jerusalem. A high steel net has been erected around the offices of the Jewish Agency and other national institutions to prevent the throwing of bombs; buses were ordered to put steel screens on their windows, and other counter-measures, which cannot be disclosed for security reasons, have been taken.

The problem of inter-urban-traffic into and out of Jerusalem remains urgent. Jewish authorities are preparing to wage a vigorous fight to arrange the safe transport of essential commodities. However, a critical battle for Jerusalem is considered imminent.

An Arab attack on the Sanhedria quarter of Jerusalem was thrown back early today by the Haganah, which killed one Arab and wounded three others. A Haganah attack on a house in the Arab Sheikh Jarach quarter, which had been used as a headquarters by

snipers shooting at buses travelling to the Hebrew University, cost the lives of five Arabs. The house was demolished.

Several more Arabs were killed when a building housing the Supreme Moslem Council was blown up by Haganah sappers operating under heavy fire. Troops and police who were attracted to the scene by the blast allowed the occupants of the house, including armed guerrilla leaders, to escape taking their dead and wounded with them.

The Haganah attacked an Arab band that was acting "suspiciously" in the Jerusalem suburb of Upper Lifta, inflicting a few casualties. The Sternists later attacked Malacha Village near Jerusalem, killing seven Arabs and destroying six houses.

In reprisal for the last attack, Arab guerrillas massed near Malacha fired at settlers in the Jewish village of Bit Vegan. Earlier, Arabs attacked the Jewish quarters opposite the Sheikh Jerach section, also in reprisal for last night's Haganah raid. Five Jews in the Beth Israel quarter were injured by snipers. Shmuel Mizrahi, 48, was stabbed to death near the government's printing plant in Jerusalem.

Haganah "Executes" Pole and German Spying for Arabs

The bodies of a Pole and a German, otherwise unidentified, which were found in a Jerusalem street this morning, were identified by the Haganah as two spies who had been "executed" by a Haganah firing squad after having been found guilty of espionage for Arab guerrillas. The Haganah said that they had both been held in custody for several days until a "military court" had been assembled to try them.

A body of an unidentified young Jew was found on the grounds of Hadassah hospital in Tel Aviv this morning. He is believed to have been the victim of an internal squabble among the dissident groups. Twelve masked Jews last night kidnapped 19-year-old Moshe Beck from his home at Kaifa. He has not been heard from since.

Funerals for 25 Jews who died as a result of violence or from natural causes were finally held today after the government furnished protection to funeral corteges, here following a protest by U.S. Consul General Robert Macatee, who demanded that the route between Hadassah Hospital and the city proper be protected and also that guards be furnished to ensure the safety of mourners at the funeral of Harry Fischel, American Jewish philanthropist and communal leader, who died yesterday. Even so snipers attacked the Fischel funeral party as it returned from the cemetery.

The Jewish settlement of Hartuv, not far from Jerusalem, and Genossar, in Lower Galilee, were both attacked. Three Jews were wounded in the first attack, while one Haganah defender was killed and two others injured at Genossar.

Arab guerrillas carried out another successful train robbery, 15 miles from Jerusalem, escaping with a large quantity of goods.

An unidentified Jewish group blew up a block of evacuated houses in Jaffa, near the Tel Aviv border, completely demolishing the structure and causing slight damage to a neighboring police station. The houses had been used as a command and sniper post by Arab guerrillas. The offices of the Jaffa municipality and the Jaffa rail station were also attacked, but the attackers withdrew before police arrived.

Meyer Levin, former JTA correspondent who was released from prison several days ago after being seized aboard a blockade runner, disclosed today that among his cell mates were three American youths who have been imprisoned since May 17, 1947 when they arrived here as part of the crew of the immigrant ship Havikvah. They are Michael Siess of 262 Stutter Ave., Brooklyn; Herman Braverman, 830 East 79th Street, Manhattan; and Adrian Phillips, 1049 Grand Concourse, Bronx. They said that no reason has been given them for their continued incarceration.

JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO CONTINUE IMMIGRATION OF VISALESS JEWS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency executive now in session here, today discussed the question of whether to continue visaless Jewish immigration to Palestine in view of negotiations which are going on at present between the Agency and the governments of the United States and Britain with regard to matters concerning the establishment of the Jewish state. A decision is expected within the next few days.

The Agency, it was stated, had decided to discontinue visaless immigration before the sailing of the Pan York and Pan Crescent, which were brought into Famagusta, Cyprus, yesterday, but the two ships sailed from a Bulgarian port prior to being notified of this decision.

An official government communique today announced that 59 men, 44 women and 18 children were detained in the settlement of Nahariyah as "illegal" immigrants who allegedly landed yesterday from the blockade runner United Nations from which about 700 Jews were spirited ashore. Twelve other persons were detained in Nahariyah yesterday for screening.

PANAMA WILL REQUEST U.S. GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE CASE OF PAN YORK AND PAN CRESCENT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Panama will request the U.S. Government to take action against the owners of the Pan York and Pan Crescent for illegal use of the Panamanian flag, it was indicated today by Panamanian diplomats.

The Panamanian consul in New York has been instructed to investigate the case. "The owners of the ships are believed to be American citizens and their flying the Panamanian flag constituted a breach of maritime law," a Panamanian official stated. He declared that the Pan Crescent was struck off the Panamanian register on Oct. 25, 1947, and the Pan York on Nov. 5, 1947.

State Department officials here are reluctant to discuss reports of an alleged request made by the government to the F.B.I. to investigate whether funds raised by Jewish groups in the United States are being used to help bring visaless Jews to Palestine on blockade runners. They also refused to comment on press reports that some officials in the government are perturbed by the London fears that there are "fifth columnists" among the passengers on the Pan York and Pan Crescent.

Jewish Agency Calls "Fifth Column" Report a "Contemptible Falsehood"

The Jewish Agency office issued a statement denying the London report and terming it "a contemptible falsehood and a cruel joke," aimed at smearing the movement of Jews from Rumania to Palestine. Pointing out that the Jewish immigrants on the two vessels represent only a fraction of the tens of thousands who seek to leave Rumania, the statement said:

"Those on board the two vessels were chosen by responsible Zionist groups in Rumania and the method of selection is such as to make ridiculous the suggestion that they are infiltrated by communists or members of the Stern gang. The story attributed to the anonymous British spokesman is a malicious slander of people who have already undergone great sufferings and are prepared for every sacrifice in the effort to establish themselves in a homeland of their own. It is a repetition of similar statements put out by British Foreign Office propagandist during the United Nations sessions in a palpable effort to discredit the partition and immigration proposals of the UNSCOP. Its obvious intention is to create international ill-feeling and suspicion between the Great Powers who have cooperated in the United Nations settlement of the Palestine problem."

SLOVAK GOVERNMENT EXEMPTS SMALL FARMS FROM RESTITUTION; 13,000 JEWS LOSE OUT

PRAGUE, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- The Slovak Government Agricultural Committee has accepted an amendment to the local restitution law which will exempt from restitution all farms under 50 acres, it was reported from Bratislava. In effect this amendment will prevent the return of farm land to an estimated 13,000 - 20,000 Jewish former land-owners.

Simon Tressl, a cattle dealer, has been sentenced in Prague to one month's imprisonment, on charges of having attempted to incite violence against Jews. Tressl pleaded that he was drunk when he insulted the Jews.

JEWS IN HUNGARY EXCEED 140,000; POLL REVEALS; 67 PERCENT LIVE IN BUDAPEST

BUDAPEST, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- There are over 144,000 Jews living in Hungary according to a survey just released here. The report, which covers the period since the liberation of the country, reveals that there over 96,500 Jews in Budapest, or 67.2 percent of the total.

The birth-rate during the past year was 25.2 per 1,000 while 1,158 Jewish couples were married in Budapest during the first eight months of 1947. The figures for the provincial areas are not included in the report.

JOINT DEFENSE APPEAL OPENS THREE-DAY CONFERENCE; WILL DISCUSS METHODS TO COMBAT BIAS

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- A three-day national conference of the Joint Defense Appeal will open here tomorrow at the Hotel Bellvue-Stratford to discuss a program of counter-measures for combatting anti-Semitism in the United States. More than 500 Jewish communal leaders representing every section of the country will participate in the conference.

Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee, who will be the principal speaker tomorrow evening, will outline the responsibilities which history has imposed on American Jewry for rebuilding Jewish life in Europe and for securing the future of Jews throughout the world. He is expected to point out that organized anti-Semitism in this country must be fought if American Jewry is to carry out these responsibilities. Other speakers will include Frank Goldman, president of the B'nai B'rith; U.S. Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon; Justice Meir Steinbrink, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith; Jacob Blaustein, chairman of the executive of the American Jewish Committee; and Donald Oberdorfer, chairman of the national council of the Joint Defense Appeal, which finances the defense programs of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League.

The opening session of the conference will hear addresses of welcome by Albert H. Lieberman, Philadelphia Jewish leader, and Samuel H. Daroff, president of the Philadelphia Allied Jewish Appeal. Dr. John Slawson, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, and Benjamin R. Epstein, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, will analyze the current status of anti-Semitism at a special session of the conference. Their talks will be followed by panel discussions to study the program necessary for more effective resistance against racial and religious bigotry.

AMERICAN J.N.F. CONFERENCE GETS TEN-YEAR PLAN INVOLVING \$880,000,000 LAND PURCHASE

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- A ten-year plan for the Jewish National Fund to purchase and improve some 750,000 acres of land in Palestine for the resettlement of 100,000 families was proposed here today at the opening session of a three-day leaders conference of the American J.N.F. The proposal, which would involve the expenditure of at least \$880,000,000, will be discussed in detail at the Sunday session of the parley.

The conference was convened to consider the most effective methods for implementing the U.N. decision on Palestine. The more than 700 delegates from various Zionist groups in 1,000 communities in the U.S. will study the investment program which envisions progressive expenditures over a ten-year period. The Sunday meeting will feature Tel Aviv Mayor Israel Rokach, Palestine agricultural expert Abraham Harzfeld and Dr. Jorge Garcia-Granados, leading figure at the U.N. Palestine discussions and former Guatemalan member on UNSCOP.

The plan, formulated in Jerusalem after consultation with outstanding agricultural and urban colonization experts, was outlined in a cable from Dr. Abraham Granovsky, head of the J.N.F. Dr. Granovsky pointed out that the plan calls for a minimum of seven-and-a-half acres land for each family settled on the land. He added that only 25,000 acres of cultivable land will be available to the Jewish state after partition, and that the remainder will have to be purchased.

Breaking down the overall estimate of \$880,000,000, the J.N.F. head said that \$400,000,000 will be required to purchase rural lands, \$60,000,000 for the purchase of some 12,500 acres of urban land and \$20,000,000 will be needed for land for special purposes. In addition, Dr. Granovsky revealed about \$400,000,000 will be needed for the reclamation, improvement and general development of the land before it can be used as productive soil.

It was also disclosed at the parley that the J.N.F. has established 330 colonies and agricultural settlements on nearly 250,000 acres of land acquired by the organization.

2,000 AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS MEET ON J.D.C. PROBLEMS; MAP AID PLANS FOR 1948

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- More than 2,000 Jewish leaders from all over the country will meet here on Sunday at Hotel Commodore to discuss relief plans of the Joint Distribution Committee for 1948 at the 33rd annual conference of the organization.

Representing Jewish communities from all sections of the United States, the participants will hear reports on overseas conditions and JDC's new responsibilities in view of the United Nations decision on Palestine, by Judge Louis E. Levinthal, U.S. Adviser on Jewish affairs to the American Military Governor of Germany; Herbert H. Lehman, former Governor of New York and Director-General of UNRRA, who is a JDC vice-chairman; and Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, chairman of the JDC European Executive Council, who recently arrived in New York from his post in Paris.

A summary of operations in 1947 by JDC will also be presented by Moses A. Leavitt, JDC executive vice-chairman. During the year, JDC appropriated more than \$75,000,000 for relief, reconstruction and resettlement activities, constituting the largest aid program ever undertaken in a twelve-month period by any wholly private welfare agency. The conference marks the completion of one-third of a century of assistance by JDC. Since its inception in November, 1914, JDC has appropriated more than \$300,000,000 for life-saving and life-building aid to Jews in distressed areas throughout the world.

NEW YORK UTILITY COMPANY CHARGED WITH DISCRIMINATION NOW EMPLOYS JEWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- The Brooklyn Borough Gas Company, which last year was charged by the American Jewish Congress with discrimination against Jews and Negroes in its employment policy, has engaged a number of Jews and Negroes; it was reported today by the Congress.

Following filing of the charges with the State Commission Against Discrimination; it was revealed that only one Jew had been employed by the company between 1941 and 1946. Meanwhile, the Congress has asked the Commission to investigate other public utilities.

AMERICAN MIZRACHI REQUESTS U.S. GOVERNMENT TO GIVE MILITARY AID TO JEWS IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- An appeal to the U.S. Government to make available to the Jews in Palestine military aid in the form of weapons and supplies "for the defense against the onslaughts of threatening Arab neighbors" was directed today by the national executive of the Mizrachi Organization of America.

The organization also sent an urgent appeal to the United Nations to adopt "immediate and firm measures to restore law and order in the Holy Land." The United States Government was also asked to make available ships "for transporting hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees to the new Jewish state."

AMERICAN JEWISH LABOR GROUP CABLES \$250,000 TO HISTADRUTH IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- The National Committee for Labor Palestine today cabled \$250,000 to the Histadruth headquarters in Tel Aviv "to enable organized Jewish labor in Palestine to mobilize more forces for defense and to absorb newly arrived immigrants." The organization hopes to raise another million dollars for the same purposes during the month of January, an announcement said.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND IN LOS ANGELES GETS \$110,000 BEQUEATHED BY LOCAL JEW

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Jacob Kahan, a local Jewish resident, willed to the Jewish National Fund most of his estate, it was announced here today. The sum of approximately \$110,000, which includes mostly cash and some stocks, has already been turned over to the J.N.F. of Los Angeles by the Farmers & Merchants National Bank, the executor and trustee of the estate.

DR. MORGENSTERN, DR. SACHAR RECEIVE AWARD FOR SERVICES TO JEWISH LIFE IN AMERICA

CHICAGO, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Dr. Julian Morgenstern, former president of the Hebrew Union College, and Dr. A.L. Sachar, former national director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, were jointly awarded the 1947 National Service Award of Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity, at the 43rd annual convention of the fraternity here. The award is made annually for "the finest contribution to the essential Jewish life of America."

MUSICAL ADVISER OF JEWISH NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PALESTINE ARRIVES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. (JTA) -- Joachim Stutschewsky, musical adviser of the Jewish National Council of Palestine, arrived here with his wife, Julia, a noted singer, for a four-month visit in the United States. During their stay, they will give a number of concerts in various American cities.