

Tuesday, January 6, 1948

**JTA***Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41ST STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

LAST MINUTE NEWSHAGANAH KILLS 13 ARAB GUERRILLAS IN UPPER GALILEE; BLASTS HOME OF MUFTI AIDE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Thirteen Arabs were killed tonight when four houses were blown up by Haganah troops in Ein Zeitim, in Upper Galilee. One of the buildings was the residence of Subhi el Khadra, one of the Mufti's righthand men, and a well known agitator during the 1929 Arab riots.

Moshe Shertok, Jewish Agency political chief, who today left for the United States by air, denied at a press conference in Tel Aviv that the Agency had ordered the halting of visaless immigration or had promised any government to halt the movement of refugees to Palestine. He reiterated the point made by other Agency members to the effect that the Agency had no control over immigration, only a moral persuasive power.

The moral weight of the Agency could have been effective if a free port for immigration purposes had been promised the Jews, he stated, but once Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin closed the door on the possibilities of a free port the Agency lost whatever moral force it might have had in the matter. He admitted that the Agency was under pressure from the United States to cut off the flow of "illegal" immigration.

(See Earlier Story on Following Page)

TWO SHIPS NOW IN PALESTINE PORTS ORDERED TO CHECK CARGOES FOR EXPLOSIVES

NEW YORK, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The American Exports Line, on one of whose freighters 65,000 pounds of TNT destined for Palestine were found Saturday, has ordered two other of its vessels in Palestine waters to check their cargoes, it was announced today. One, the Rochester, is believed to be unloading at Tel Aviv at the present time, while the other, the Exford, is now in Haifa, and has freight aboard for Tel Aviv.

Harry M. Durning, Collector of the Port of New York, announced late today that he has turned over to U.S. Attorney John F.X. McGohey all evidence gathered so far in the investigation of the incident here. (Officials of the Department of Justice stated in Washington that the Department does not know if any law was violated, or whether any federal law was involved. "This will all be investigated," a spokesman declared.)

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### HAGANAH ADMITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR BLASTING ARAB "DEFENSE" HEADQUARTERS IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The Haganah tonight assumed responsibility for the blasting of the Semiramis Hotel in the Katamon quarter of Jerusalem during the pre-dawn hours this morning in which five Arabs are known to have died and 13 persons are still missing beneath the rubble of the building.

A Haganah spokesman said that the hotel was blown up because it was "a meeting place for Arab gangs and a distribution point for weapons from Jerusalem to the adjoining Arab villages. Unfortunately," he added, "we cannot strike at the main headquarters of the Arab bands because it is secreted in the El Akaa Mosque." It is also known that the hotel was the headquarters for the local Najada and Futuwa "defense" army headquarters and a meeting place for members of the Arab Higher executive and the anti-Zionist boycott committee.

The explosion caused a breakdown of water and power facilities in the neighborhood and the rubble blocked the streets, causing bus companies to discontinue service. Many consular offices in the area closed down today because of the disruption of utility services and several, including the Swiss and the Czech, are known to be looking for other quarters in safer parts of the city.

The attack was carried out by two cars full of Jews who opened the raid by hurling a hand grenade at the hotel. The grenade caused little damage, but was followed by intensive rifle and tommygun fire, under cover of which the raiders apparently placed a heavy explosive charge against the side of the building. Minutes later the bomb exploded, wrecking the building, smashing windows throughout the neighborhood and littering the streets with rubble and glass fragments.

The blast brought Arabs flocking into the streets throughout the section. The retreating raiders tangled with the crowd and fired a number of shots at the Arabs before they succeeded in disengaging themselves.

### Mufti's Secretary and Spanish Diplomats Reported Among Victims

Among the reported dead in the attack were the recently-arrived Spanish consul, Manuel Salazar Travesedo, and Subhi Tahir, a secretary of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem. The Spanish vice-consul is listed as missing.

Until about a week ago the quarter was inhabited by about equal numbers of Jews and Arabs, but most of the Jews were evacuated after a number had been killed by Arab thugs and gunmen and the local Arab committee had ordered them to leave. Some observers believe that today's attack was in retaliation for the killing of Jews as well as for the attempt to force them out of the district.

Meanwhile, a mass exodus of Arabs from Katamon has been reported under way since the explosion. In Romena quarter, which was also a mixed neighborhood until

In the past few days, the Arabs are deserting their homes in fear of bomb attacks. They may have sold or sub-let their homes to Jews.

#### Arab Mayors of Jerusalem Suburb Sign Truce with Jewish Community Council

The two mukhtars of the Arab village of Lifta, a suburb which adjoins the Roman quarter, today signed a truce with the co-chairmen of the Jerusalem Jewish Community Council under which the mukhtars guarantee not to allow foreign Arabs to use their village as base for attacks on Jewish areas.

Despite a severe electrical and rainstorm last night, Arabs besieging the Jewish quarter of the Old City which has been cut off from supplies and communications with the rest of Jerusalem since last Friday, launched a new attack. The Haganah counter-attacked and drove the Arabs back with hand grenades and heavy fire, inflicting numerous casualties.

The latest Arab attack came after a lull of seven hours and was attributed to the arrival of news of yesterday's Jaffa explosion. The latest official communique on the Jaffa blast, apparently set off by the Stern Group, is 18 dead and 98 injured.

The Jaffa-Tel Aviv "front" was the scene of sporadic activity all last night and today. At least one Jew, Ephraim Lanaman, 25, was killed and several others were wounded by snipers during the day.

Haganah circles disclose that the Arabs in Jaffa have established a strong-point equipped with Sten guns in the Hassan Bek Mosque which overlooks a Jewish neighborhood on the Tel Aviv border. The Jews have drawn the attention of the British to the fact that the Arabs are using a house of worship as a sniping post, but the British have paid no attention to the protests.

#### Jerusalem's Old City Remains Cut Off; Safad Jews Isolated

A Jewish Agency spokesman today issued a statement describing as "literally unparalleled anywhere in the world" the situation which exists now in the Old City. He pointed out that Arab gangs without any legal status have barricaded five of the six gates to the city and refuse to permit anyone to enter without being searched, and have cut off several thousand Jews from all outside contact.

"What amazes us," said the spokesman, "is not only that the military authorities put up with this state of affairs, but that the British soldiers are happy to show their identification before being permitted to pass through the Arab posts. The Old City is run by writ of the Arab executive and everybody submits to it."

Not only is the Jewish quarter of the Old City cut off, but Safad, a predominantly Jewish town in an all-Arab area, has been without telephonic communication with the outside world for several days since Arab guerrillas cut the telephone lines. Jewish-chauffeured cars attempting to enter the town are fired on by snipers and a number of Jewish settlement police who fired at Arab snipers have been disarmed by the British police. The latest, and most heavy attack against the Jewish section of the city was repulsed by Haganah units in entrenched strongly fortified positions.

The Haganah reported that it has carried out a number of reprisal attacks in Arab areas where Jews were killed. Three houses were blasted and several casualties were inflicted in a three-hour punitive attack on the Arab village of Tra, on the outskirts of Haifa, where many of the Arab workers who participated in the lynching of 41 Jews last week at the Consolidated refineries reside. Four Arabs were killed and a number wounded in battles on the Jerusalem outskirts where the Haganah attacked bands which have been raiding Jewish traffic.

ISH "COURT OF HONOR" FINDS DUTCH JEWISH LEADERS GUILTY OF WORKING WITH NAZIS

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- A Jewish "Court of Honor," made up of representatives of the Jewish community and the Dutch Zionist Council, has found Dr. Abraham Asscher and Prof. Dirk Cohen guilty of collaboration with the German occupying authorities during the war.

Dr. Asscher and Prof. Cohen, who headed the German-dominated Jewish Council, were released on bail last month pending their trial by the state on charges of collaborationism. Many public figures, including the editors of the three leading dailies in Amsterdam, have urged the Minister of Justice to halt the prosecution.

The Court of Honor found Drs. Asscher and Cohen guilty of the following acts: 1. Obeying the orders of the Germans to organize a Jewish Council; 2. Publishing a Jewish weekly, which was of more use to the Germans than the Jews; 3. Facilitating the carrying out of certain German rulings, including the internment and deportation of Jews; 4. Advising Jews to pay the special levy imposed on them; and 5. Aiding in the selection of Jews for deportation, particularly in May, 1943.

The tribunal, which was boycotted by Dr. Asscher, but before which Prof. Cohen appeared, recommended that they be barred from honorary or paid positions in the Jewish community for life. At the same time, the court singled out several members of the Jewish Council for praise, declaring that they had aided in the underground movement to save Jews.

Both of the former leaders have issued statements condemning the Court's decision, charging that the membership of the tribunal was not representative, having been drawn from persons who never had any contact with the Jewish Council. Prof. Cohen added that the Court's ruling violated due process and his attorneys stated that it had no legal status. They have refused, however, to publish a detailed refutation pending the trial of their clients before the Extraordinary Court of Justice at The Hague.

Nobel Prize Demanded for Swedish Diplomat Who Rescued Jews from Nazi Hands in Hungary

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- A movement to award the 1948 Nobel Peace Prize to Raoul Wallenberg, young Swedish diplomat, for his work in rescuing thousands of Jews from the wartime Nazi terror in Hungary in 1944 will be launched at a mass meeting here next Sunday.

The mass meeting also aims at mobilizing popular support for government pressure on the Soviet Union to secure definite information and the ultimate release of Wallenberg, who disappeared from Hungary after the Red Army entered the country. He is believed to be alive and in Russian custody.

Wallenberg reported to the Russian conqueror of Budapest, Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky, on Jan. 17, 1945, and has not been seen since by Swedish officials. Some Russian authorities insist he was murdered by Hungarian Fascists, but his friends and relatives are convinced he is still living, somewhere in Russia. His mother, Mme. Maj von Dardel of Stockholm, had assurances to this effect from Mme. Alexandra Kollantai when she was Russian Ambassador to Sweden.

YUGOSLAVIA BANS CZECH MOTION PICTURE PORTRAYING JEWS IN UNFAVORABLE LIGHT

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- A Czech-made film entitled "Nikola Subaj" has been withdrawn from circulation following a protest that it portrayed a Jewish character in a manner tending to arouse anti-Semitism. The State Committee on Films acted after intervention by Jewish groups and protests by the government's National Front in Macedonia and in the city of Subotica.

The film, which was made last year, was shown in Bohemia and Moravia, but was never circulated in Slovakia following protests by leading Prague newspapers.

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LEADERS OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES WILL GATHER TO PLAN MORE EFFECTIVE SERVICES IN 1948

NEW YORK, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Careful examination of every major area of Jewish communal responsibility will mark the 16th annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds which will open in Chicago on Jan. 26, it was announced here today by Stanley C. Myers, president of the Council.

The Assembly sessions will be devoted primarily to aiding Jewish communities in the United States and Canada to plan more effective services in 1948. "Problems relating to overseas needs, the implementation of the Jewish state in Palestine and refugee aid here hold a vital and dramatic place in the thinking and the planning of our organized communities, and will be fully dealt with in Chicago," Mr. Myers said. "At the same time, the problems of strengthening our American Jewish community - Jewish education needs, health and aged care, overcoming anti-Semitism, and social planning - though less dramatic, are vital to our welfare. At the Assembly of our Council, which is the cooperative action and planning body of the communities, all of these problems will be focused in their proper perspective."

CHARLES W. MORRIS NAMED HEAD OF JOINT DEFENSE APPEAL; THREE-DAY PARLEY CLOSES

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Charles W. Morris of Louisville, Ky., was today named to head the 1948 nation-wide Joint Defense Appeal drive for \$6,104,540 at the closing session of the three-day second annual meeting of the J.D.A.

Morris was unanimously elected chairman of the J.D.A. National Council comprising 587 Jewish communal leaders. He succeeds Donald Oberdorfer who was re-elected chairman of the organization's executive committee.

In addition, the final session adopted several resolutions concerning intensification of activities in the local communities. The delegates resolved to intensify the J.D.A. campaign on state, regional and local levels in an effort to fulfill the 1948 quota for the financing of the anti-racist activities of the American Jewish Committee and the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League. The parley also decided to educate communal leaders to the importance of the J.D.A. campaign and the aims of the two participating organizations.

CANADA ADMITS 197 JEWISH WAR ORPHANS; FIRST GROUP OF JEWISH DP TAILORS EXPECTED

MONTREAL, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- A total of 197 Jewish war orphans have been brought to Canada since the Canadian Jewish Congress launched its plan to place 1,000 orphaned children from DP camps in homes across the Dominion, it was reported here today.

The first group of tailors to come to Canada from DP camps will arrive soon. A special joint committee of the unions in the industry, the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society of Canada and the Canadian Jewish Congress is assisting in the settlement arrangements.

A reception centre and temporary home for the tailors is being set up near Montreal with the co-operation of government agencies. It is expected that the tailors will be coming at the rate of 400 a month. The new arrivals will be placed in this centre and distributed from there to their new homes in various parts of the country.

Labor Union Urges Congress to Reduce Immigration Quotas

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Attacking displaced persons as "vicious characters," the International Teamster, organ of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America, urges Congress to reduce immigration quotas, "if not eliminate immigration entirely until the United States has solved its own domestic crises."

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U.S. GOVERNMENT IS ASKED TO PREVENT CONFISCATION OF JEWISH PROPERTY IN ARAB LANDS

NEW YORK, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- An appeal to the U.S. Government to exert pressure on member states of the Arab League to prevent passage of a proposed law under which Jewish property in those countries would be confiscated to finance Arab resistance against the Jewish State, was made today by the World Jewish Congress.

The appeal, directed to the State Department, says that reliable information received by the Congress indicated that Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq had already approved the text of the law. The measure would make the Jews of these countries "second class citizens and helpless hostages," the communication to the State Department said.

Emphasizing that the Arab States depend upon this country for their economic wellbeing, the communication, signed by Dr. Robert Marcus, acting political director of the World Jewish Congress, said: "The United States, which has been in the forefront of the world struggle against fascism, must never sanction the terrorization, degradation and possible liquidation of the innocent Jews who live in the Moslem lands of the Arab League."

ZIONIST LABORITES IN U.S. AND CANADA TO RAISE \$1,000,000 EMERGENCY FUND FOR HAGANAH

NEW YORK, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- An emergency fund of \$1,000,000 will be raised in the United States and Canada within the next two weeks for the Haganah and the Histadruth, it was announced today by the National Committee for Labor Palestine.

The announcement said that a conference of representatives of the Committee for Labor Palestine in the United States and Canada will be held in New York at the Hotel Astor on Jan. 18, at which time they will be asked to bring funds collected in their cities. "The money will be immediately relayed to Palestine for the purchase of equipment and supplies for the Haganah," the announcement stated.

ITALIAN CABINET MEMBER FAILS OUT TRAINING ACTIVITIES FOR JEWISH DP'S IN ITALY

ROME, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Full support for ORT's vocational training program for displaced Jews in Italy was voiced here today by Giuseppe Saragat, newly-appointed right-wing Socialist Vice-Premier, in an interview with Leon Denenberg, an ORT representative.

Saragat termed ORT's program for 2,000 DP's who are being trained in preparation for their departure for Palestine as "work of a great scope and efficiency, having my fullest support and sympathy." Denenberg also conferred with U.S. Ambassador James Dunn and other officials.

NEW MASS GRAVE CONTAINING BODIES OF 2,000 JEWS DISCOVERED AT BERGEN-BELSEN CAMP SITE

LONDON, Jan 5. (JTA) -- A mass grave containing 2,000 bodies of Jews murdered by the Germans has been uncovered on the site of the Bergen-Belsen camp, Jewish relief workers reported today. This is the eighth mass grave uncovered at Belsen since the end of the war, and it is believed that many others are still undiscovered.

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