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PALESTINE GOVT. STUDYING ACTION AGAINST HAGANAH FOR BLASTING OF ARAB HEADQUARTERS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government is "carefully considering" the situation created by the Haganah's public assumption of responsibility for the blasting of the Semiramis Hotel in Jerusalem yesterday, a government communique stated today.

It added that "the government is satisfied that reports allegedly from 'Jewish sources' that the Semiramis Hotel was used as a base for marauding Arab gangs and the headquarters of the military Arab youth organization Nejada and Futuwa are entirely without foundation."

The Jewish Agency tonight declared that it would stand by its statement of yesterday, that the hotel was a center for Arab gangs and military groups. It pointed out that the murder of Jews had elicited no such indignation from the government.

Arab quarters loosed a flood of criticism at the government for failing to take "adequate" security measures to prevent the Jewish raid. Dr. Hussein Khalidi, secretary of the Palestine Arab Higher Executive, charged the government with partial responsibility for the deaths resulting from the attack because "no protection whatever" was given to the Arab inhabitants of the Katamon quarter where the hotel was located.

British Police Begin Evacuation of Arab Sections of Country

British police detachments today began evacuating those parts of Palestine which have been designated as territory of the Arab state, it was learned here. It is unknown, however, whether the police will be concentrated in the territory which will be part of the Jewish state or whether they will be confined to barracks until they are evacuated from the country, possibly next month.

The Jewish Agency called on all elements of the Jewish community to guarantee the safety of all foreign consuls in Palestine in accordance with the practices of international custom and law. The appeal followed a visit this morning to the Agency by a delegation of consular representatives, who are also calling at offices of the Palestine Government and the Arab Higher executive to make similar demands for full observance of their international status.

Acting Spanish Consul Manuel Salazar was killed in yesterday's explosion at the Semiramis Hotel and most of the consulates, which are located in the same area, were forced to close as a result of the disruption of water and electric services by the blast.

The Agency also issued a statement expressing its regret that Salazar had been the innocent victim of the explosion. It expressed sympathy with his family. Declaring that Salazar fell victim to the "present spasm of disorder,"

the statement added that the Agency sincerely hopes that law and order will speedily be restored in this country.

High Commissioner Summons Ben Gurion to Conference

It was learned that High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham met today with Agency Chairman David Ben Gurion and that sharp words were exchanged concerning the Semiramis blast. Official sources indicated that arms searches in Jewish settlements or similar sanctions might be invoked as reprisal for the operation.

One Jew, one British policeman and two Arabs were killed in the continuing guerrilla actions on the Jaffa-Tel Aviv "front" during the night and early this morning. The two Arabs were killed when Haganah units fired on a band looting deserted Jewish homes. The Sternists again blasted the rail line connecting the two cities, just as it was about to be reopened to service after being repaired from a previous bombing.

The toll in the bombing of the Arab National Committee headquarters in Jaffa has now reached 21 dead, it was officially announced. In addition seven more bodies have been extricated from the ruins of the Semiramis Hotel, bringing the total to 12 dead. One woman was found alive in the debris.

2,000 Jews Besieged in Old City Fight Off Attackers for Fifth Day

Shooting continued in the Old City at intervals today as the 2,000 Jews surrounded in the tiny Jewish quarter beat off several new Arab assaults. Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog has telephoned an appeal to government officials to break the five-day-old blockade of the Jews and assure that they receive supplies of food and medicine.

Two Arabs were killed and several wounded when the Haganah repulsed an attack by Arab guerrillas and Arab police on the Jerusalem suburb of Mevor Hayim. The raid lasted some two hours, but there were no Jewish casualties. Meanwhile, it was reported that 39 telephone wires between Hebron and Jerusalem have been cut. In Acre a British officer was shot dead while attempting to pass through an Arab roadblock.

A British military court this morning sentenced two young Jewish women to a fine of \$1,600 or three years in jail for illegal possession of arms. The women, 18-year-old Ruth Klinov, daughter of the Jewish Agency's information officer, and Carmela Yaari, 20, were arrested on Dec. 1, at the height of one of the early Arab riots, while defending a Jewish section of Jerusalem from attack.

The Palestine Government has asked the International Red Cross to send a representative to Palestine to investigate the situation and offer aid because the many casualties during the past five weeks have filled the hospitals to capacity, it was announced.

Reports from Beirut state that three Arab guerrilla units destined to join the Arab "armies" in Palestine have already been completely equipped and will leave for Syria shortly. No information is available concerning the strength, equipment or make-up of the units other than that they are named for Arab chieftains. The reports also revealed that the Farouk Sharia College in the Lebanese capital has been converted into a training camp for Palestine volunteers.

It was learned that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry has received a request that all funds collected for the defense of Palestine be placed at the disposal of the Palestine Arab Higher executive. The Lebanese Government has just contributed 50,000 Lebanese pounds to the fund for the "redemption" of Palestine.

Another dispatch stated that the Lebanese and Syrian Governments have decided to expel by Jan. 15 all Jews of Palestine origin.

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BRITAIN MIGHT HAND OVER POWER TO SELF-APPOINTED "ARAB ADMINISTRATION," LONDON HEARS

LONDON, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Some members of the so-called Arab Administration for Palestine, which claims sovereignty over the entire country, may receive administrative powers in Palestine from the British Government, well informed British circles predicted today.

While official quarters claim to have no information on the new "Administration" which was set up in Cairo yesterday--beyond newspaper reports, and reiterate that Britain will only hand over power to the U.N. Implementation Commission, it is understood that there is an alternative proposal under consideration in the event that the Implementation Commission arrives in Palestine too late to accept authority when the British lay down the Mandate, or in the event that the Commission is unable to carry out its functions.

Under the alternative plan the British would hand over control in the Arab areas individually to persons comprising the new Arab Administration, although not to the Administration as such. The British would thus be in a position to state that they did nothing which contravened the U.N. decision, although practically their action would amount to recognition of an Arab state in the whole of Palestine.

ARABS WILL NOT BECOME DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE JEWISH STATE, LAND EXPERT SAYS

NEW YORK, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Arabs living in the new Jewish state in Palestine will not become "displaced persons," but will be "better off" than anywhere else in the Middle East, Elias Epstein, head of the Jerusalem office of the Jewish National Fund, declared here today at the closing session of a three-day emergency conference of Hadassah at the Park Central Hotel.

"The creation of a Jewish State does not automatically put Jews in possession of all the land within their territory," Mr. Epstein warned Hadassah leaders. "We will buy every foot of soil we need from its rightful owners. Arabs need not be displaced. Because of intensified agriculture, modern machinery and methods, it will be possible for a Palestinian family--whether Arab or Jew--to make a better living on nine acres of land in Palestine in the new Jewish state, than it was on thirty-seven acres several decades ago.

Concluding their conference, Hadassah leaders voted to seek a 50 percent increase in their present land reclamation and reforestation goal of \$650,000. A decision to launch an intensified nationwide emergency campaign to apprise the American public of the "dire need" among the Jews of Palestine for medical aid, surgical and other supplies, drugs, funds with which to maintain and educate refugee children coming from Cyprus, and to feed and provide recreation for the present child population of the country were also approved during the closing session.

U.S. CONSUL IN PARIS GETS TESTIMONY ON SHIPMENT OF TNT TO PALESTINE

PARIS, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Jules Chendor, alleged owner of the New York warehouse from which 65,000 pounds of TNT were consigned to Palestine, appeared before American Vice-Consul Robert Moore here today and made a statement declaring that the warehouse did not belong to him, that he was not a member of any Palestine terrorist organization and that he had no connection with arms traffic to Palestine.

NAZI DIPLOMATS GO ON TRIAL BEFORE U.S. COURT, CHARGED WITH PLOTTING TO KILL JEWS

NUREMBERG, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Charged with plotting "the final solution of the Jewish problem" in 1942 under the Hitler regime, twenty-one top ranking Nazi civil officials and diplomats were today brought to trial before a U.S. war crimes court. The trial opened with a five-hour speech by Brigadier General Telford Taylor, chief American prosecutor.

Gen. Taylor said he would prove that these officials, who include Baron Ernst von Weizsaecker, former German ambassador to the Vatican, participated in a meeting at which it was decided to exterminate millions of Jews in Europe. "These are the men who transformed the Nazi plans and ideologies into action," Gen. Taylor told the court.

STATE DEPARTMENT TO GET INVENTORY OF GOLD TRAIN RECOVERED FROM NAZIS BY U.S. ARMY

VIENNA, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Within ten days or less, the State Department will be sent a complete inventory of the gold and silver objects, gold teeth, jewelry and other valuables which the Nazis stole from Hungarians, chiefly Jews, in 1944, and which United States troops captured aboard a 24-car train in Austria, it was learned here. Ultimate disposition of the loot remains to be determined.

A special Army and State Department team has been examining the contents of the crates' valuables confiscated in the spring of 1945 near Werfen, Austria, and valued at several million dollars. The gold, silver and gems had been assembled by the Wehrmacht before the Nazis retreated from Budapest, and the train was en route to Germany via Austria when halted by the Americans.

Since then it was brought to Marglan, near Salzburg, and the loot, which includes chalices, chandeliers, cups and other gold and silverware from scores of Hungarian synagogues, unloaded and stored in a warehouse. The structure, incidentally, is surrounded by barbed wire, sentries armed with Tommy-guns are posted every few feet around the building, and there is the closest scrutiny of those permitted to enter or leave it.

Every effort has been made to trace the ownership of the religious objects, some of which are centuries old, and it is hoped that these articles will be returned to those Hungarian synagogues which still exist or to the Jewish communities from which they were stolen. Where ownership cannot be established, the gold, silver and other religious objects will go to aid in the reestablishment of Jewish communities destroyed by the Nazis, it is expected.

Capt. Oscar M. Lifshutz, Acting Chief Jewish Chaplain of the United States Forces in Austria, today said that he would recommend to the State Department that certain of the oldest of the religious objects, which have little monetary value but great historical interest, be given the Jewish Museum in Jerusalem. Others of these articles may eventually be sent to rebuilt synagogues or given to reestablished Jewish communities in Hungary, Austria, Germany and other European countries. Capt. Lifshutz has been serving as a member of the team of Army officers and State Department officials who have been drawing up the inventory for the last several months.

Aside from the religious art objects, there were quantities of diamonds, gold and jewelry in the intercepted train. Establishing the ownership of these items is particularly difficult because most of the original possessors are believed to be among the Nazi-slaughtered Hungarian Jews, and their survivors, if any, are scattered over the face of Europe.

HUNGARIAN PRESS CRITICIZES U.S. FOR ADMITTING OFFICIAL OF ANTI-SEMITIC PRO-NAZI REGIME

BUDAPEST, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The Hungarian press today criticized the United States for admitting Ferenc Vajta, a major war criminal who was press chief for Ferenc Szalasi, Hungarian puppet premier, who was executed last year. Vajta, who went to the U.S. from Italy, to where he fled to avoid arrest, published and directed the publication of much anti-Semitic literature.

(The Hungarian weekly Az Ember, published in New York, this week appealed to President Truman, in an open letter, to probe the circumstances around Vajta's admission. It charged that the Hungarian Nazi, who is now living in a mid-town Manhattan hotel, shared responsibility for the murder of thousands of Jews.)

CZECH GOVERNMENT PROBING CHARGE SKODA WORKS SELLING ARMS TO SYRIA FOR USE AGAINST JEWS

PRAGUE, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry is investigating complaints by Jewish and other organizations that the Skoda arms works are selling munitions to Syria which are destined for use against the Jews of Palestine. The Skoda management, however, has denied in a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that any arms have been delivered to Syria.

Meanwhile, the Prague radio announced today that Syria has suspended commercial relations with Czechoslovakia.

BRITISH UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL LAUNCHES EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN FOR \$10,000,000 MINIMUM

LONDON, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- An emergency conference of the United Palestine Appeal of Great Britain voted today to launch an immediate campaign to raise a minimum of \$10,000,000 for development of the Jewish state.

Eliezer Kaplan, Jewish Agency treasurer, outlined a four-year development scheme for absorption and integration of 400,000 immigrants, stressing that \$280,000,000 will be required in the first year.

Nehum Goldmann, a member of the Agency executive, discussed the difficulties involved in getting the U.N. to set up an international police force and in moving the Security Council to take action to curb the current outbreaks. He predicted that once the Jewish state is an established fact, the Arabs would be more likely to cooperate.

AMERICAN EXPEDITION TO SINAI PENINSULA SAYS JEWS DID NOT CROSS RED SEA IN EXODUS

NEW YORK, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The belief that the Jews, in their migration from Egypt, did not cross the Red Sea, but a more northerly body of water mentioned as the Lake of Reeds in contemporary Egyptian documents, was voiced yesterday in Cairo by the University of California African Expedition exploring the Sinai Peninsula.

Wendell Phillips, leader of the expedition, said that archaeological research on the peninsula indicates that the crossing of the Jews must have taken place in the marshy land below Great Bitter Lake. He declared that the remains of a town which existed 3,500 years ago were discovered at the northern end of the Red Sea, proving that the Sea did not extend further than that. The Biblical account describes the itinerary of the Jews as having passed further north than the present top end of the Red Sea, and scholars had previously assumed that the Sea was longer at the time that Moses led the Jews out of Egypt.

CENTRALIZATION OF JEWISH COMMUNITY LIFE IN U.S. URGED AT RECONSTRUCTIONIST PARLEY

NEW YORK, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Establishment of local Jewish community councils in cities throughout the country to coordinate and give expression to the viewpoints of the diverse groups within the community was suggested here by Dr. Mordecai M. Kaplan, founder of the Reconstruction movement, speaking at a week-end annual conference of the group. The local councils should in turn be coordinated by a National Jewish Community Council, Dr. Kaplan added.

Dr. David Petegorsky, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said that the future communal status of American Jews will depend on "the emergence and development of the Jewish state in Palestine, the extension of progressive democracy in the United States and maintenance of peace in the world, the political and economic status of Jews in other lands, intelligent Jewish community organization in America, further development of cultural pluralism, the status of civil rights in America, and the degree of assimilation and escape from Jewish identification."

Dr. Emanuel Gemoran, educational director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, told the conference that "American Jewish life will become more normalized as a result of the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. Much of the controversy over Zionism which sapped American Jewish strength is over," he added. "There no longer is any adequate reason why the whole of American Jewry should not unite to work for Judaism conceived as functioning in the areas of religion and culture."

NEW YORK STATE BODY HITS EDUCATIONAL BIAS, SUGGESTS LEGISLATIVE CURBS ON PRACTICE

NEW YORK, Jan 6. (JTA) -- The New York State Commission on a State University has approved tentatively a statement condemning the use of racial and religious quotas by institutions of higher learning and outlining specific legislation to prevent such discrimination in the future, it was reported here today, although the Commission has made no official announcement.

The Commission will recommend that the State Legislature adopt the following measures: bar public funds to any institution practicing discrimination and the Commissioner of Education to investigate complaints of discrimination and initiate inquiry into discriminatory practices. If discrimination were found the Commissioner would have the authority to take both persuasive and legal action to end the practice. Denominational and sectarian institutions would be exempt.

In a section of its statement which discusses anti-Semitic discrimination, the Commission says: "Studies of the staff of the commission reveal that some non-sectarian educational institutions have criteria of selection that appear to be different for Jewish and non-Jewish applicants. This inequality of treatment is indicated by the fact that a smaller proportion of applications are accepted from Jewish than from non-Jewish applicants from the same geographical areas. Furthermore, as the academic standing of the applicant decreases, increased preference is given to non-Jewish applicants."

NEW YORK FEDERATION SEEKS \$3,910,000 IN TWO-WEEK WIND-UP DRIVE TO ATTAIN GOAL

NEW YORK, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York today launched an intensified two-week drive to raise \$3,910,000, which is required to fulfill the Federation's basic 1948 quota of \$15,000,000, it was announced by Victor S. Riesenfeld, chairman of the appeal. The 14-day solicitation period has been designated "Days of Dedication."

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