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JTA

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PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

LAST MINUTE NEWS

BRITAIN ADVISES U.N. IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION NOT TO ARRIVE IN PALESTINE BEFORE MAY 1ST

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 15. (JTA) -- Sir Alexander Cadogan, chief of the British delegation at the United Nations, today indicated to the U.N. Implementation Commission that it would not be advisable for it to arrive in Palestine before May 1, two weeks prior to the termination of the Palestine mandate.

Speaking at a closed session of the Commission, the British representative avoided giving a clear answer to the question of whether Britain will evacuate a port in the Jewish area of Palestine by February 1, as provided in a General Assembly resolution. The British Government, he said, has responsibility up to the last minute before termination of the mandate. However, he added that the subject was open for further negotiations with the Commission.

Most of Cadogan's statement, which lasted 20 minutes, was devoted to a resume and affirmation of previous major British declarations in Palestine. He made no attempt to answer charges made by the Jewish Agency this week that the British were favoring the Arabs in the present situation in Palestine.

(In Jerusalem, a government spokesman today told a press conference that the Palestine Government is ready to receive the technical staff of the U.N. Implementation Commission, in order to hand over files, but would not agree to the arrival of members of the Commission, fearing "dual authority.")

Sir Alexander Cadogan gave the Commission some information regarding the British time-table for tactical withdrawal from Palestine. It is this information which the British Government was most anxious to keep secret, presumably because it would affect the security situation in Palestine and aggravate the present unrest in the country.

Tomorrow, the Commission will hear Moshe Shertok on behalf of the Jewish Agency. Jewish Agency representatives will also be heard on Friday by the U.N. working group preparing the status for an internationalized Jerusalem.

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HAGANAH ROUTS ARAB UNITS IN SIX-HOUR BATTLE IN HEBRON HILLS; 100 INVADERS REPORTED DEAD

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- A six-hour battle between several hundred Arab guerrillas and settlers in a group of Orthodox Jewish colonies midway between Hebron and Jerusalem ended tonight in a complete rout of the invaders.

The inhabitants of the colonies and their Haganah guards suffered few casualties, but inflicted heavy losses on the guerrillas, who were reinforced by Arabs from mountain settlements in the Hebron Hills. One report said nearly 100 Arabs were killed by machine-gun fire and mines but the Arabs listed 12 dead. The Haganah pursued the fleeing attackers for more than five miles, breaking through several roadblocks.

The assault began at dawn, when Ein Zurim was attacked from three sides by a small group. When the inhabitants returned the Arab fire, the latter summoned reinforcements and the operation was extended to include attacks on Kfar Etzion and Massout Itzhak. The marauders, who used mortars and machine-guns, were led by Fakhri Maraki, a gang chieftain in the 1936 disturbances, who escaped from the Acre jail last summer during the mass jailbreak engineered by the Irgun.

British police in armored cars rushed to the settlements when word of their plight was flashed to Jerusalem, but found difficulty in approaching the scene of the battle since the Arabs had erected massive roadblocks and mined the approaches to the colonies.

Haganah Uses Mortars in Attack on Arab Quarter; Sternists Blast Jaffa Houses

Shortly before 7 p.m., the Haganah launched a mortar attack on the Sheikh Jarach quarter of Jerusalem, which controls the route to the Hebrew University and Hadassah Hospital. It was the second such attack in two days, 20 houses having been demolished yesterday. Observers on Mount Scopus said that more than a dozen shells fell into the quarter tonight, causing extensive damage.

Late tonight, shooting spread to other parts of the city and the Arabs launched an attack on the Sanhedrin quarter. At 10 p.m. a battle was raging on the outskirts of the city.

The house of the ex-Mufti, located on a slope of Mount Scopus, outside the Sheikh Jarach quarter, was demolished tonight by Sternists. An armored ambulance from Hadassah Hospital was attacked in the vicinity earlier and a nurse wounded. Another ambulance carrying new born infants was also fired upon, but there were no casualties.

The Sternists announced this afternoon that they had sent a demolition squad into the Manshieh quarter of Jaffa, which adjoins Tel Aviv, and blasted two houses which had been used as snipers' posts. The announcement that an unknown number of Arabs had been killed, while the Sternists returned without any losses. A police account of the incident later said that three Arabs were killed and a ten-year-old

rl fatally injured. Another snipers' position was blown up by British troops. At night-fall a minor engagement developed on the Tel Aviv-Jaffa border.

Six Jews were killed in Haifa today when a stolen post office truck filled with explosives was parked near the Savoy Hotel by two Arabs who fled. A British policeman was also killed and another injured. Later, there was sporadic shooting in the city's commercial center.

A Jewish woman and her non-Jewish husband were killed today by a sniper while standing outside British military headquarters in an Arab quarter of Jerusalem. The victims were Thomas Perry, a civilian employee of the army, and his wife, the daughter of an unnamed Tel Aviv judge.

Government Negotiates to Declare Jerusalem an "Open City"

A government spokesman revealed today that the authorities have been negotiating with the heads of the various religious communities to make Jerusalem an "open city," but had made little progress. It is understood in authoritative Jewish quarters that Jewish leaders will never agree to the proposal, since it is coupled with the proviso that the more than 1,500 Jews now besieged in the Old City leave their homes there.

While the Jews, it was stressed, favor the proposal as such, they cannot agree to evacuate the Old City. Responsible Jewish quarters commented bitterly that the government apparently desires to expel Jews from the Old City, which is, at least, holy to the Jews and to the other religions, and wants to present the international authority which will take over the city with a fait accompli at the expense of the Jews. If Jerusalem were to be given the status of an "open city," both Arabs and Jews would have to agree to cease all violence and not to seek any military advantage at each other's expense.

Meanwhile, the Haganah distributed Arabic leaflets today warning the Arabs that unless the siege of the Old City was lifted, the Haganah would set up cordons around Arab quarters of Jerusalem. The leaflets also warned villagers against allowing their settlements to be used as bases for snipers or guerrillas.

In other incidents during the past 24 hours, Shmuel Ben Bassal, 35, was killed when an Arab band attacked Hartuv, near Latrun; Sarah Friedman, 52, the proprietor of a beauty shop, was killed when stabbed by a member of the so-called Arab National Guard on Julien's Way in Jerusalem in view of British police who refused to interfere, and a false rumor was spread that the car of the Iraqi consul had been attacked by Jews and his wife, the daughter of King Abdullah, killed.

Leading citizens of the Arab village of Khirbet Bethfar, accompanied by a British police officer, visited nearby Kfar Urieh, which was the target of a week-end attack which cost six lives, and asked that a truce be negotiated. The Arabs said that the attackers of Kfar Urieh had been "foreign elements." It was learned from other sources that troops of the Transjordan Arab Legion had been involved in the attack.

It was reported tonight that King Ibn Saud has requested and received permission from the Palestine Government to send troops into Jerusalem to protect the Saudi Arabian consulate.

The central committee of the Agudas Israel today cabled to the executive committees of its branches in New York, London, and Zurich requesting that they take action to prevent the Jews from being driven from the Old City. The cable also stressed that the Jews were cut off from the Wailing Wall.

STATE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO LIFT EMBARGO ON SHIPMENT OF ARMS TO PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- The State Department does not contemplate any change in its embargo policy regarding export of arms and munitions to Palestine, Under Secretary of State Robert Lovett said today.

Asked at his press conference whether the United States Government might revise its present policy if a recommendation calling for the U.S. to supply arms and munitions were made by the United Nations Implementation Commission on Palestine, Mr. Lovett declined to speculate. He stated further that no studies were being made as to the possibility of an international force being used to implement the U.N. decision for partition.

To questions about the reported intention to send a marine detachment to guard the American consulate building in Jerusalem, Mr. Lovett said that purely exploratory conversations were held by the American Consul-General there with the local authorities about adequate protection for the consulate building, in case the local police were unable to provide a reasonable number of personnel for this purpose. No formal request was made to the local authorities for such protection, he said, nor was the type of guard specified. He pointed out that obviously a small group would be adequate in view of the size of the building.

Secretary of the Army Kenneth C. Royall announced here the cancellation of the sale of 200 tons of explosives originally purchased from the War Assets Administration for use in Palestine. The explosives will be placed in army stocks, the announcement said.

Describing the explosives as "engineer type demolition blocks," Secretary Royall pointed out that the Army had assured itself that the trucking company involved in transporting the explosives was properly licensed for the movement of the cargo.

FOUR JEWS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH DISCOVERY OF EXPLOSIVES ON SHIP AT JERSEY PIER

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- The FBI today announced the arrest of four persons allegedly implicated in the purchase and shipment of the explosives discovered on Jan. 3 on a Jersey City pier.

Those arrested - Philip Alper, Moses Wolfson, Jack Dorfman and Joseph Seiger - are charged with falsely stating the contents of the shipment in the export declaration forms. Federal warrants have been issued for Nahamen Yardeni and Avadi Yoselevitch, who are believed to have sailed for Palestine aboard a ship which left the United States on Nov. 1.

The New York press today continued to demand immediate United Nations and American action to check Arab sabotage of the partition decision of the U.N. General Assembly.

The New York Post, in an editorial signed by its editor T.O. Thackrey, said that "the United States must demand, at once, before the Security Council, the formation of a United Nations Army to enforce the peace. The United States must offer to furnish the United Nations all or any part of the military force needed immediately to protect the new Palestine state from outside aggression." The paper also demands that the U.S. lift "at once" its embargo on arms to Palestine, and that President Truman should order the Department of State to warn the Arabian states to cease their sabotage of the U.N. decision.

The New York Daily News, in an editorial today, urges the United Nations to bring pressure on the Arab states "to quit meddling in Palestine affairs." The paper warns that "as things are going now in Palestine, the worst is rapidly approaching and the U.N. itself is on the way to being one of the chief victims of the Palestine blow-up."

BRITAIN SAYS ARMS SHIPPED TO ARAB COUNTRIES "SCRUTINIZED" TO AVOID USE IN PALESTINE

LONDON, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Accused of providing arms to countries of the Arab League which are behind anti-Jewish violence in Palestine, the British Government today declared that, according to a recent decision, all orders for war material coming from Arab countries in the Middle East are "very carefully scrutinized" to avoid their possible use in Palestine.

A government spokesman said that the import of arms to Palestine will be controlled by the British authorities while they remain in the country. Afterwards the control will have to be carried out by the United Nations Implementation Commission. He emphasized that the war material which Britain sent to Egypt, Iraq and Transjordan "under treaty obligations" is only "for internal security and defense" of those countries.

The spokesman also revealed that the British Government has received replies from the governments of Syria and Lebanon on the demarches made in connection with attacks on Palestine from their territories during the week-end. However, he refused to disclose the nature of the replies, or whether they are considered satisfactory.

Zionist sources here state that a number of Britons, including officers up to the rank of Brigadier, have volunteered for service with the Jewish forces in Palestine.

FRANCE MAY EXPEL BRITISH OFFICERS EN ROUTE TO JOIN ARAB FORCES IN PALESTINE

PARIS, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- French police authorities may expel British officers who have arrived in France en route to join Arab forces in Palestine, it was learned here today. The authorities do not wish to have these officers remain in Paris because of the possibility of a "shooting war" between Jewish and Arab organizations in France.

JEWISH DELEGATION ASKS BRITISH GOVT. TO CURB ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA IN ENGLAND

LONDON, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- A deputation led by Prov. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, which was received today by Home Secretary James Chuter Ede, expressed concern over the emergence of the new Mosley Party. The delegation urged that measures be taken to curb publications and statements encouraging racial discrimination.

Mr. Ede promised that he would consider the proposals, but stressed that the question might invoke interference with the rights of free speech and public assembly.

10 JEWISH REFUGEES ARRESTED WHEN 500 ITALIAN POLICE RAID REFUGEE CAMP AT BARI

ROME, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Twenty-eight refugees, among them 10 Jews, were arrested today when 500 police, accompanied by three tanks, raided the Bari refugee transit camp. No reason was given for the detention of the Jews. The 18 others, Greeks and Yugoslavs, are believed to be political offenders.

DUTCH WOMAN EXECUTED IN AMSTERDAM FOR BETRAYING JEWS TO GESTAPO

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Forty-two-year-old Ans Van Dijk was executed here today for betraying Jews to the Gestapo during the occupation. The woman, who is allegedly Jewish, was convicted by a Dutch court last March.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT PROMISES TO QUASH CHARGES AGAINST JEWS WHO ENTERED ILLEGALLY

PARIS, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Minister of Justice Andre Marie today promised a Jewish delegation that he would quash all pending prosecutions against Jews charged with entering the country illegally and pardon those who have been jailed or fined for the offense.

The delegation, which was headed by Marc Jarblum, pointed out to the Minister that several hundred refugee Jews have been hauled before French courts within the last few weeks for illegal entry.

JEWS IN HUNGARY WILL GET NAZI-LOOTED PROPERTY DISCOVERED IN FRENCH ZONE OF GERMANY

BUDAPEST, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Jewish leaders were notified today that the French occupation authorities have agreed to restore to the rightful owners Nazi-looted property in Hungary which was discovered in the French zones in Germany and Austria.

Jews here are especially interested in fifty cases of valuables stolen from Hungarian Jews and discovered in the French zones. For some time attempts have been made by Hungarian authorities to secure these valuables for the purpose of returning their property to the rightful owners and transferring unclaimed property to the Hungarian Jewish Fund.

However, the International Refugee Organization wanted the property to be placed at the disposal of the Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for the benefit of Hungarian Jewish refugees who do not wish to return to Hungary. The final decision was apparently in favor of returning the property to Jewish owners residing in Hungary.

CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT ASKED TO CHECK MASS DESECRATIONS OF SYNAGOGUES, CEMETERIES

PRAGUE, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- Immediate government action to check mass-desecrations of synagogues and Jewish cemeteries in Czechoslovakia was demanded today by the Council of Jewish Communities in Bohemia and Moravia-Silesia following reports of renewed vandalism. The demand was addressed to the Ministry of Education.

Prague newspapers today report that since the liberation of Czechoslovakia more than thirty cases of anti-Jewish vandalism have been registered. "Each of these cases is an indictment and proves the fact that fascism is still deeply rooted in the country," Dnesek, a leading paper, writes. The paper devotes two pages to describing recent desecrations of Jewish cemeteries and synagogues, and asks for energetic government measures to put an end to such acts.

A report from Bratislava, Slovakia, states that anti-Semitic slogans can still be seen on the building of the local municipality. In Nove Zanky, Southern Slovakia, police authorities this week ordered the removal of anti-Semitic slogans from walls on a number of buildings.

VANDALS DESTROY MEMORIAL IN HUNGARY HONORING JEWS KILLED DURING PRO-NAZI REGIME

BUDAPEST, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- The memorial erected for Jewish martyrs at Kiskunfelegyhaza was destroyed last night by vandals, while thirty-eight tombstones were desecrated.

Police authorities suspect that the memorial was destroyed by members of the dissolved Catholic Youth Organization. The desecration at the Buda cemetery, the police believe, was carried out by German youths. This is the second time this month that tombstones over the graves of Nazi victims were defaced and otherwise desecrated by vandals who broke into the Buda cemetery.

ASKED TO ALLOW CANADIANS TO ENLIST IN INTERNATIONAL PALESTINE FORCE IF FORMED

OTTAWA, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- The Canadian Government was asked last night to let Canadian volunteers to serve in any international police force recruited for service in Palestine, in a resolution adopted at the closing session of the annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America.

Other resolutions demanded that Britain cease supplying arms to the Arab forces which have openly admitted their intention of obstructing implementation of the U.N. partition decision, asked the Palestine Government to recognize the Haganah as the legal Jewish defence force and condemned the activities of extremist groups.

Dr. Israel Goldstein, addressing a closing luncheon, called on Canadian general Zionists to contribute \$100,000 to the general Zionist fund-raising campaign. Dr. Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv and Abraham Hartzfeld, a Yiddish leader, stressed the need for raising more money to purchase land.

Samuel J. Zacks, of Toronto, was re-elected president of the ZOC and Michael Rabin, of Montreal, vice-president. Hyman Grover, of Montreal, was named treasurer.

AMERICAN ZIONISTS AGREE ON JOINT SLATE OF DELEGATES TO WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- All Zionist organizations and parties in this country which are officially affiliated with the World Zionist movement, unanimously agreed to waive the holding of elections and adopted a joint slate of delegates to the forthcoming World Zionist Congress, with representation on the same ratio as that obtained at the 22nd World Zionist Congress. Charles Rees, chairman of the U.S. Central Jewish Election Board, announced today.

The decision by all Zionist groups to forego elections was taken in recognition of the need of conserving their entire energies and resources "toward meeting the danger which is facing the Palestine Yishuv in the struggle to safeguard the establishment of the Jewish state."

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA URGED TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC TIES WITH PALESTINE JEWS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- The Union of South Africa was advised to "do everything possible to cultivate relations with the new Jewish state," in an address by Minister of Labor Collins M. Steyn, opening the Palestine Industrial Exhibition here.

Mr. Steyn said that South Africa was already doing a fair amount of trade with Palestine, adding that the present trade balance was greatly in South Africa's favor. He stated that the "Jews and Arabs will eventually compose their differences and I visualize a strong contented Palestine."

SOLOMON MIKHOELS, SOVIET ACTOR AND JEWISH LEADER, DIES IN MOSCOW; WAS 57

LONDON, Jan. 14. (JTA) -- The Moscow radio announced last night that Prof. Solomon Mikhoels, prominent Yiddish actor and leader of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, has died in the Soviet capital. He was 57.

Mikhoels, whose real name was Vofsky, entered the Petrograd Jewish Dramatic Studio at the age of 28, after having studied law at the University of St. Petersburg. He became a professional actor in 1919 and at the time of his death was the best known Yiddish actor in the country. He starred in many performances of classic works by Sholom Aleichem, Mendel Moicher-Sforim and other well-known Jewish dramatists and also played the title role in Shakespeare's King Lear, which was given in Yiddish. He was awarded the Order of Lenin in 1931 and was a Peoples Artist of the Republic. He visited the United States in 1943, where he received enthusiastic receptions in Jewish communities throughout the country.