

Monday, January 19, 1948

TA Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

RIOUS FIGHTING CONTINUES IN HEBRON HILLS; 17 MORE JEWS KILLED NEAR Kfar ETZION

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The Kfar Etzion battle, which was opened by the Arabs in the middle of last week, raged for many hours this week-end as numerous hands of Arabs attacked Jewish defenders in and around the settlement. Observers staged at the battle was probably the fiercest thus far in the war which today entered its seventh week. Seventeen Jews were reported killed today in the Hebron Hills.

Following prolonged negotiations between Jewish leaders and British authorities, the latter finally decreed that 35 Jews killed in an Arab ambush Friday night will be buried in Kfar Etzion instead of Jerusalem where the Jews wished their bodies brought. Services will probably be held tomorrow afternoon.

One of the members of the Haganah unit was Moshe Perlstein, an American citizen. Perlstein, a student at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, who came to this country under the G.I. Bill of Rights, was a resident of Brooklyn, N.Y.

The 35, all but three of whom were members of the Haganah sent to reinforce the beleaguered settlers at Kfar Etzion, were wiped out to the last man and their bodies were not recovered until yesterday. Various reports place the Arab casualties in the fray at between four and 60 killed. The government insists that only four Arab bodies were found in the same vicinity as the 35 Jews, while some Jewish sources assert that they have found out that three score Arabs were killed and their bodies removed before the British arrived on the scene.

Last night, meanwhile, several battles were fought between Jews and Arabs at Beth Jamal and Hartuf, in the same vicinity. The Haganah lost two men killed and a number wounded, but inflicted scores of casualties on Arab units, at least one of which numbered over 100 men. A party of Arab reinforcement was fired upon by Jews and turned back after several Arabs were wounded.

Convoy Attacked Near Jerusalem; Haganah Blasts Snipers

This morning a Jewish convoy heading for Tel Aviv from Jerusalem was attacked at Motza, about five miles from Jerusalem. Two Jews were killed and seven wounded. In Jerusalem itself at least one Jew was murdered today by Arab guerrillas. The body of the Jew, Mordechai Admoni, was mutilated and his body was partially burned before it was found by police. An unidentified Jewish male was found near Haifa with the head severed from the body and removed from the scene.

The Haganah today renewed its attacks on snipers' posts in and around Jerusalem. Several buildings were blown up in the Sheikh Jarach quarter and Beth Safafa. With the latter community, the Jews had been negotiating a truce which fell through. When the Arabs resumed their sniping at Jews and Jewish traffic, the Haganah went into action. The Arabs at Beth Safafa have since asked for and received the protection of British troops.

Similar actions were taken in the Tel Arish quarter of Jaffa on the Tel Aviv border line and in the Lake Huleh region of Northern Palestine where several notorious

fighters who had been leading guerrilla bands were killed in the blasts. Arab sources reveal that some 500 Arab unit leaders met in Nablus this week-end to plan their war strategy in all parts of Palestine.

The situation in Haifa seems to have become somewhat quieter since the Haganah's attacks late last week against the headquarters of several Arab organizations which were apparently the centers for military operations. However, both Arab and Jewish workers who have to travel through the city to reach their jobs are reporting to work either in armored cars or under the escort of heavily-armed troops. Although the citrus crop is being loaded in the port area, some 80 passengers destined for Palestine are still aboard the Rumanian liner Transylvania where they were marooned by the deadly fighting last week.

Irgun Calls for Jewish Counter-Offensive in May

The Irgun underground radio station, "Voice of Fighting Zion," tonight called the Jewish community to prepare itself to launch an all-out counter-offensive against the Arabs after May 15, the date on which the British are scheduled to surrender the Palestine Mandate. The announcer called for "unity" among all Jewish fighting forces in order to foil "British obstruction plans" aimed at preventing the establishment of a Jewish state.

The authorities have announced that they are again reverting to the practice of destroying buildings from which attacks are launched on British troops and police. It was disclosed that two houses, one owned by Jews and the other by Arabs, were destroyed yesterday after snipers fired on soldiers, killing one.

The government also announced that units of the Transjordan Frontier Force, Palestine Arab troops serving under British officers, have been withdrawn from duty along the northern border of Palestine. The announcement said that reports of the possibility of attacks on the northern sector from outside the country which would be heavy for this corps to withstand, was responsible for the decision to withdraw the force and replace it with British troops.

Meanwhile, reports from Damascus reveal that a large, well-trained and well-equipped Arab force has been collected in the Syrian capital and will shortly be sent to Palestine. The same reports state that Lebanese Defense Minister Mejid Arslan left for the Lebanese-Palestine border to "inspect" his troops stationed there.

Late tonight Jewish authorities released the names of the Haganah members who were killed and wiped out Friday night in the Hebron Hills. The list of names follows: Meir Aloni, David Ash, Joseph Baruch, Yehuda Bitenski, Jacob Benattar, Benjamin Ben-Zvi, Oded Benjamin, Beni Buggalavsky, Eytan Bass, Jacob Caspi, Alexander Cohen, David Dehari, Hayim Engel, Sabu Goland, Itzhak Halevi, Eliahu Westlovitz, Yechiel Yavin, Joseph Kaplan, Tuvia Kushner, Jacob Kitik, Yona Levin, Abraham Lustig, Dani Miron, Amnon Michaeli, Eliahu Mizrahi, Baruch Pat, Benjamin Persitz, Moshe Perlstein, Shmuel Pnueli, Daniel Reich, Jacob Shmueli, David Zvebner, Jacob Zebuloni and a set of names from Revadim identified as "Itzhak."

British Shoot Jewish Internees on Cyprus Visiting Neighboring Camp

HAIFA, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Following the shooting of two Jewish internees on Cyprus the British authorities have issued an order that all persons trying to escape from the DP camps will be fired on by troops, according to reports received here.

The order added that attempts to visit between camps would be considered an attempt to escape. The two Jews, Emil Nussbaum and Jacob Haakon, were shot while visiting friends at a neighboring camp.

LIFTING OF PALESTINE EMBARGO URGED AT AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE 41ST ANNUAL PARLEY

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Judge Joseph M. Proskauer was today re-elected president of the American Jewish Committee for a sixth term, as the organization's 41st annual conference concluded. Jacob Blaustein of Baltimore was re-elected chairman of the executive.

In his annual presidential message delivered to 400 American Jewish leaders at the parley, Judge Proskauer called for the lifting of the United States embargo on arms to Palestine until a United Nations constabulary is created, and the early creation of such a United Nations constabulary. He explained that "responsible Jewish leadership asks for nothing except that the mandate of the United Nations be executed" and that, therefore, American Jews "have a clear right and duty" to urge both the lifting of the embargo and the creation of a United Nations constabulary.

"We have a right and a duty as Americans to represent to our State Department the full import of the violence which is spilling human blood in Palestine today," Judge Proskauer insisted, adding: "Thus, we ask of the United Nations the creation under the Security Council of a sufficient constabulary to safeguard against the lawlessness which is impeding the implementation of the decision of the United Nations Assembly."

"We may fairly ask that until such force is created, our government reconsider the embargo which has been placed upon the exportation into Palestine of munitions. Unless and until the United Nations steps into Palestine with a force able to maintain order there and enforce its own decrees, surely the least that can be asked that those who are being threatened with murder by reason of that decree, be not denied the implements with which to defend themselves and defend the action of the United Nations."

He also declared that the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine raises no problem for the American Jew "between our obligations as Americans and as Jews." He stated that there is no issue of "double loyalty," despite the feelings of a small minority of Jews in this country. Judge Proskauer also called for the stamping out of anti-Semitism in America as a solution to the problem of closing the gap in civil liberties "between our principles of freedom and our practice."

Oppose Establishment of Permanent American Jewish Assembly

The delegates affirmed the action taken some months ago by the A.J.C. executive committee in declining to participate in the projected plan to set up an overall Jewish agency to act as "spokesman for American Jewry." The resolution declared that "the proposed permanent American Jewish Conference or Assembly is not in the best interests of American Jewry."

Judge Phillip Forman, chairman of the A.J.C. Foreign Affairs Committee, told the conference that one of the major problems which American Jewry will face in 1948 is the question of "the security of the 800,000 Jews resident in the Arab and Moslem countries as it is affected by Arab reactions to the partitioning of Palestine." Judge Forman pointed out that the Jews in the Moslem countries "may soon have to be regarded as the new DP's, and we owe them clear responsibility."

"Representations have been made to our State Department," he added, "and our diplomatic officers in the Near East have been instructed to intervene in a

tendly spirit to the governments to which they are accredited as soon as steps may be deemed advisable, and not to wait for blood to flow."

Gen. Omar Bradley Scores Discrimination and Social Prejudice

General Omar Bradley, who will succeed General Dwight D. Eisenhower as Chief of Staff, told the meeting that the American tradition of civil rights should be applied, not merely glorified. "Discrimination too often reflects the jaundiced attitudes of too many American people," he said, declaring "there is too often a tragic disparity between what we practice and what we preach."

The General assailed "the ugly manifestations of discrimination and social prejudice (which) sometimes cause us to emulate totalitarian governments in the curtailment of liberties to our minority groups." He criticized the denial of equal educational opportunity for the Negro as contributing to racial discrimination and preventing "intelligent utilization of our manpower resources and limiting our per-capita income."

Beside Judge Proskauer and Mr. Blaustein, four new officers were chosen and others re-elected. Re-elected were Herbert H. Lehman, honorary vice-president; Dr. John Slawson, New York, executive vice-president; Herbert B. Ehrmann, Boston, vice-president; Milton W. King, Washington, vice-president; Fred Lazarus, Cincinnati, vice-president; Ralph E. Samuel, New York, vice-president; Jerome Steinhart, San Francisco, vice-president; Frank L. Sulzberger, Chicago, vice-president; Nathan M. Ohrbach, New York, treasurer; Albert H. Lieberman, Philadelphia, associate treasurer; and Edward A. Norman, New York, secretary. New officers chosen include Irving M. Engel, New York, chairman of the administrative committee; Samuel D. Leidesdorf, New York, honorary vice-president; David Sher, and Alan M. Strock, both of New York, vice-presidents.

Discussion leaders and speakers at today's business sessions of the annual meeting included former Governor Lehman, Sher of New York, Strock, Leidesdorf, Lieberman, and Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn of Rockville Center, L.I., a member of the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

40 JEWISH LEADERS TO LEAVE FOR EUROPE, PALESTINE NEXT WEEK ON U.J.A. INQUIRY TOUR

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Forty Jewish leaders from all parts of the United States will fly to Europe and Palestine next week under the sponsorship of the United Jewish Appeal to study the needs of Jewish survivors on the Continent and the new Jewish state in Palestine, it was announced here today. The group will leave Los Angeles Jan. 25 on the first leg of its journey.

The plane will take off with West Coast Jewish leaders and will head for Chicago, where it will pick up the mid-western contingent. Their plane, the "Star of Hope," is scheduled to leave for Europe from LaGuardia Field on January 27. The members of the delegation include:

Louis Berry, Detroit; Mrs. Matilda Brailova, Elizabeth, N.J.; Samuel Brown, South Bend, Ind.; Jack Dembo, San Diego; Harry Goldman, Des Moines; Jack Hiatt, Newmarket, Mass.; Joseph Holtzman, Detroit; Marvin H. Itts, Youngstown, Ohio; Irving G. Rhodes, Milwaukee; Ben Solnit, Los Angeles; David Uchill, Denver; Max Zimmer, Los Angeles; Maxwell J. Bristol, No. Hollywood, Calif.; Rabbi Aaron H. Lefkowitz, Long Branch, N.J.; Alvin A. Wolff, Melvin Dubinsky, Irwin Ely Goldstein, Bette E. Lipnitz, Samuel G. Klein, all of St. Louis; Philip Klaus, Richmond, Va.; Joseph Pursell, Al Lusning, Joseph Schulman, M.F. Berg, Maurice Kmpanies, Norman Reicher, Myer Fransky, Rabbi Max Nussbaum and Julius Fligelman, all of Los Angeles.

CONVENTION OF AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM HEARS SPEAKERS SCORE POLITICAL ZIONISM

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Carrol Binder, formerly foreign editor of the Chicago Daily News and at present editorial editor of the Minneapolis Tribune, today told the fourth annual conference of the American Council for Judaism that the problem of Palestine "may have such serious complications for the United States that alarmed non-Jewish Americans may be prejudiced against American Jews individually and collectively and without regard to their position on Zionism.

"Such a development," he added, "would be most unfortunate for the American people as a whole as well as for the Jews of America. Our peace and security will suffer if Palestine becomes one of the incubators of World War III."

Dr. Paul Hutchinson, editor of the Christian Century, told the 200 conference delegates tonight that political Zionism represents "a wrong turning point in the long history of Judaism. Even the most optimistic Zionist should begin to suspect that without a bloody, ruthless civil war, that sort of division (of Palestine) drawn in the U.N. report will never be carried through, that the Zionist state--with its Arab population of more than 40 percent--will never be established."

Today's sessions were devoted chiefly to reports on publications, educational, rabbinical and immigration matters and intra-organization questions. The conference will conclude tomorrow evening.

CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR PALESTINE RAISES \$1,275,000 FOR HISTADRUTH

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- More than \$1,275,000 was raised today at an emergency conference here of the National Committee for Labor Palestine. The money was immediately cabled to the Histadruth in Palestine, as the first installment of the Committee's \$7,500,000 quota for 1948.

Moshe Shertok told the conference that the policy of the United Nations is under attack. "The war in Palestine is not between the Jews and the Arabs, but between the U.N. and the Arabs, he declared, adding that if the world "holds ideals sacred," it must resist the onslaught on international justice.

Other speakers included Abraham Harzfeld, Palestine colonization expert and labor leader now visiting this country; Abba Hushi, Don Pines, Isaac Hamlin and Aruch Zuckerman. Joseph Schlossberg served as chairman.

CHRISTIAN PALESTINE COMMITTEE CONDEMNNS ARAB ATTACKS AS NULLIFYING U.N. DECISION

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The Arab attacks on the Jews in Palestine were described this week-end by the American Christian Palestine Committee as an attempt to nullify by force the "first great decision of the United Nations." In a statement issued here, the Committee said that "if this campaign succeeds, it will reduce the United Nations to a debating society."

The British Government, the statement continued, is either unwilling or unable to maintain law and order in Palestine, adding that "while Arab bands attack Jewish settlements, blockade wide areas and waylay traffic on the highways, British officials and forces have repeatedly interfered with Jewish defense and counter-attack, repeatedly arrested and disarmed the defenders, and repeatedly confiscated their armaments."

Signatories of the statement included: Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, Senator Owen Brewster, Frank Buxton, Bartley C. Crum, Samuel Guy Linman, Senator Edwin C. Johnson, Dr. Walter Clay Lowdermilk, Senator James E. Murray, Prof. Harry A. Overstreet, the Rev. Dr. Daniel A. Poling, the Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, Senator Charles W. McNabb and Senator Robert F. Wagner.

D.C. ASSUMES CARE OF 1,000 CHILDREN FORMERLY AIDED BY WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Care for about 1,000 European Jewish youngsters, formerly cared for by the World Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Congress, will be assumed in full this year by the Joint Distribution Committee, according to a newly-reached agreement announced today. The agreement was signed by Rabbi Stephen Wise, World Jewish Congress president, Shad Polier, American Jewish Congress vice-president, and Moses A. Leavitt, J.D.C. executive vice-chairman.

The children affected by the agreement live in Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy and Rumania, 450 of them with their families or foster parents and the remainder in 15 homes and institutions. They will receive the same assistance now extended to 137,000 European Jewish youngsters through the J.D.C.'s child-care program.

YIDDISH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE OPENS 22ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE; 350 DELEGATES ATTEND

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The 22nd annual conference of the Yiddish Scientific Institute opened here this week-end with some 350 delegates from many nations in the Western Hemisphere--including Canada, Mexico, Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina--attending.

The opening session last night was attended by some 3,000 delegates and guests. During business sessions today a number of papers were delivered on various scientific and literary subjects. Dr. Leon Wulman, secretary general of the American OSE and a member of the YIVO executive, was the chief speaker at tonight's dinner. The conference closes Tuesday.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY DEAN RECEIVES A.D.L. CITATION FOR HUMAN RELATIONS WORK

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Ernest O. Melby, dean of the New York University School of Education, was awarded the annual Citation of Merit of the Anti-Defamation League and District Grand Lodge No. 1 of B'nai B'rith for his outstanding work in the field of intercultural education. He received the citation today at an all-day conference on human relations attended by more than 400 Jewish community leaders meeting in the Hotel Pennsylvania.

The citation was presented to Dr. Melby at the luncheon session of the conference by Justice Meier Steinbrink, national chairman of the A.D.L., for leadership in the establishment of the Center for Human Relations Studies, sponsored jointly by the N.Y.U. School of Education and the Bureau for Intercultural Education. The luncheon was attended by delegates from Canada, New York and New England.

EDMUND KAUFMANN TO HEAD AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE CAMPAIGN FOR \$300,000

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Edmund I. Kaufmann, of Washington, D.C., will head a campaign for \$300,000 to finance the organization of the proposed American Jewish Assembly and to carry on the current work of the American Jewish Conference, which the Assembly will succeed, it was announced today. Kaufmann today assumed the chairmanship of the Committee on Ways and Means of the Preparatory Committee for the American Jewish Assembly.