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HAGANAH STARTS CLEARING ROADS OF ARAB RAIDERS; 13 ARABS KILLED, MANY WOUNDED

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- A new Jewish campaign to clear the highways of Arab roadblocks and ambushes and also to disrupt and harry Arab traffic on the roads around Jerusalem and between that city and the main coastal cities and towns has been put into effect during the last 24 hours.

At least one Arab was killed and eleven wounded today when an Arab-chauffeured bus hit a landmine on the road between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. The truck was overturned and severely damaged. Near Beersheba three Arabs were killed when they attacked a group of Jews.

Seven Arabs died last night in the Tel Aviv vicinity, as a result of Haganah attacks to clear the highways of Arab raiders and Arab traffic and an attack on the Jaffa boundary. Three of the Arabs died when the Haganah attacked Yazur, scene of a bloody ambush last week, while an Arab truck driver was shot in his cab. In addition, two men were killed and several men, women and children injured in a Jaffa house when a bomb which one of the men was handling went off prematurely.

On the coastal road between Haifa and Tel Aviv, where the fighting had been less intense previously, Haim Sher, 32, was killed by Arabs. The settlement of Bnei Goulin, south of Haifa, was attacked this morning for the second time in twelve hours, but the raiders were beaten off. At Ein Zeitim, north of Safad, a two-hour attack was repulsed by the Jewish militia. In the Arab quarter of Haifa, British troops arrested 23 Arabs and confiscated a huge store of arms found in the same house, which was said to be an Arab gang's operational headquarters.

U.S. Consulate Installs Radio Facilities for Direct Reports to Washington

The wife and daughter of American Consul General Robert Macatee and the families of five other American consular officials today arrived in Haifa where they boarded the Italian liner *Saturnia* for the United States. The trip from Jerusalem was carried out with secrecy and speed, and the Americans were guarded by armored police cars and a Bren gun carrier.

The American Consulate has installed a short wave radio transmitter on its premises in order to transmit daily reports of the situation in Palestine to the State Department. This makes it unnecessary to use British telegraph and radio facilities or the slower diplomatic mail pouches for immediate reporting of spot developments.

A week-long census of all Jewish doctors in Jerusalem has begun as part of the campaign for the emergency mobilization of all Jewish medical men by the Jewish Medical Association. Registration has also begun for courses in first aid, under the sponsorship of the Medical Association, Hadassah and the Red Shield Organization.

A Haganah source, commenting on yesterday's battle between a Jewish convoy and a strong force of Arabs, estimated by some to have numbered 300 men, declared that the battle definitely proved the Jews' superior military training and

equipment. He pointed out that the Jewish unit of 25 men was able to stand its ground for seven hours and continuously hold the initiative although the enemy was operating in a friendly terrain from previously prepared positions.

The same source asserted that British troops who arrived on the battle scene late last night opened fire indiscriminately and killed at least four Jews before the battle ended. Later, the British covered a Jewish party which went into an Arab held sector to recover the bodies of their comrades. The Jews lost nine men, according to the Haganah count, one lieutenant and a corporal and seven privates in the militia organization.

Britain Denies Failure to Halt 750 Arabs at Border Means Change in Policy

LONDON, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- A Foreign Office spokesman today denied that the failure to halt the 750 armed Arabs who entered Palestine from Transjordan several days ago was a departure from Britain's announced policy of preventing the importation of arms into Palestine.

Claiming that "containing" the invaders inside Palestine was equivalent to stopping them at the frontier, the spokesman said that it must be left to the military authorities on the spot to deal with the situation as they think best. He added that the recent British oral protest to the Syrian Government regarding the infiltration of Arab troops into Palestine from Syria has been put into writing.

Meanwhile, "political and military" problems affecting Transjordan in connection with Britain's plans to evacuate Palestine were discussed between Foreign Minister Bevin and Premier Tewfik Pasha Abdul Huda of Transjordan during their first meeting today.

(King Abdullah of Transjordan will take over the Arab state to be established in adjacent Palestine and will abandon his cherished project for a "Greater Syria," the left-wing Palestine Arab weekly Al Ittihad stated in its first issue since its suspension a fortnight ago for violating the censorship rules.)

It is understood that King Abdullah's Greater Syria plan is unlikely to be touched upon during the talks, since the Foreign Office is opposed to the scheme and is anxious to bring Transjordan into line with the other Arab states. "Britain is interested in the stability of the Arab League as such rather than in any aggrandizement of its members which may lead to friction within the League," an authoritative source pointed out.

BAN ON OIL SHIPMENTS ABROAD ASKED IN CONGRESS BECAUSE OF TROUBLED PALESTINE SITUATION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The House Interstate Commerce Committee today asked a ban on all shipments of oil to foreign countries and gave the situation in the Middle East as one reason for the critical nature of the problem.

In a House concurrent resolution Rep. Charles A. Wolverton, chairman of the Committee, called for the establishment of a joint committee on fuel oil policy to make a review of present fuel supply and to appraise foreign commitments of fuel oil in light of "changing political conditions."

Wolverton told the House that "the Middle East situation looks far from good with the Moslem rejection of the partition of Palestine raising considerable doubt as to the security of further transportation of oil. The Committee accordingly calls for the deferment of any foreign commitment covering petroleum and petroleum products until the world-wide demand and supply picture and the reliance hitherto placed upon the Middle East as a source of supply can be reviewed," he said.

JEWISH FEDERATIONS PARLEY ASKS U.S. TO LIFT EMBARGO ON SHIPMENTS OF ARMS TO PALESTINE

CHICAGO, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Calling upon the U.S. Government to "lift the embargo on the shipment of arms to Palestine," 1,000 Jewish leaders at the closing session of the 16th annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds today deplored the Arab attacks on Palestinian Jews as "a threat to the maximum development of the Jewish state and the authority of the United Nations."

The delegates from all parts of the United States and Canada passed a series of resolutions affecting all phases of Jewish affairs and the responsibilities of American Jewry for overseas and national needs.

In addition to the demand for lifting the arms embargo, the Assembly further urged the government and the U.N. to "take the necessary steps to implement the creation of the Jewish state through the enforcement of order and security in Palestine."

Taking note of the fact that the General Assembly had "considered the critical need" for supporting overseas and domestic relief and rehabilitation, the delegates passed a resolution urging "all communities in 1948 to meet to the fullest measure of their resources their responsibilities to the many needs at home and abroad."

Congress Urged to Pass Stratton Bill

Pointing out that the U.S. has "historically been a haven for the homeless of the world," the conference urged Congress to "open wider the doors of the nation for immigration through passage of the Stratton Bill," and called upon local communities to aid the National Community Relations Advisory Council to "cooperate with our fellow Christian citizens in taking all appropriate steps to insure passage of the bill."

Regarding the independent fund-raising drives conducted by agencies in local communities, the delegates passed a resolution urging local Jewish communities to "establish cooperative procedures with local national and overseas agencies conducting such drives for capital or maintenance purposes" as a means of integrating all welfare efforts.

Other resolutions urged implementation of the report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, further development of NCRAC efforts to coordinate community relations and civic protective programs, and broadening the scope of responsibilities and participation in Jewish affairs of local community organizations.

U.N. SUB-COMMISSION REJECTS PROPOSAL TO DENY PRESS FREEDOM TO ANTI-SEMITIC PAPERS

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The U.N. Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press today rejected a proposal which would have denied press freedom to publications which spread or incite racial and religious prejudice. The vote was a tie, but under the rules of procedure a tie vote is equivalent to rejection.

The proposal was presented last week by Dr. Maurice Halperin, secretary of the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, which is composed of the American Jewish Conference, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

The following delegates voted for the proposal: France, Czechoslovakia, U.S.S.R., Philippines, Panama; against: United Kingdom, Netherlands, United States, Norway, Canada. The Uruguayan delegate was absent.

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TIME IS IMPORTANT FACTOR IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PALESTINE PARTITION DECISION, SAYS MEIRSON

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The importance of the time factor in the implementation of the United Nations partition decision was emphasized here today by Goldie Meirson, head of the political department of the Jerusalem section of the Jewish Agency, at a press conference here today.

Charging the British with playing into the hands of the Arabs, Mrs. Meirson called for the dispatch of an international force to check threats of invasion of Palestine from neighboring Arab countries. At the same time, she asked for the arming of the Jewish militia "for the sake of international security." She emphasized that a Jewish provisional government can come into existence at any time from now on.

Moshe Shertok, head of the political department of the Agency executive, who was present at the conference, expressed the hope that the United Nations would support any action Jews may take in connection with the British refusal to open a port for Jewish immigration in the Jewish area of Palestine by February 1. He hinted that the Jews may reconsider their promise to participate in a joint Arab-Jewish economic union if the Arabs, failing to set up their own state in a partitioned Palestine, enter into "questionable" alliances.

Arabs in Palestine Anxious to Live in Peace; Fear Mufti's Wrath

Mrs. Meirson, touching on Arab-Jewish relations, reported that many of the Arabs in Palestine are anxious to live in peace with the Jews, and that some of them would even be ready to form their own militia to help in the implementation of the U.N. partition decision. However, they fear the wrath of the ex-Mufti and his henchmen, she said.

"These pro-United Nations Arabs, as well as the Jewish defense, would be strengthened at the sight of a U.N. international police force," she declared. She revealed that the Hagannah is now embarked on a strategy of defense through attack, after the British had failed to liquidate Arab attacks.

Mrs. Meirson contrasted British failure to purge known Arab sniping hideouts on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road, with British aptitude for sustained curfews and house-to-house searches of Jewish communities. Citing instances of British troops searching for Jewish arms, while at the same time displaying a lenient attitude toward the Arabs, Mrs. Meirson said: "Not even our greatest pessimists expected this type of British neutrality."

India Paper Urges Britain to Reconsider Palestine Evacuation Plans

NEW DELHI, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- A call for Britain to reconsider her plan to withdraw from Palestine, was voiced here today by the influential Bombay newspaper, Times of India. The paper stated that only a large military force can enforce law and order during the interim period between the termination of the Mandate and the setting up of the Jewish and Arab states.

The local British-owned Statesman, however, declared editorially that "most Britons will probably think that the earlier Britain withdraws from Palestine the better." The newspaper added that the members of the U.N. partition commission will probably arrive in Palestine two weeks before the British withdrawal, "but their attitude hardly encourages belief that a longer apprenticeship would be of value."

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RUMANIAN PREMIER SAYS ZIONISTS, BUT NO "RICH JEWS", WILL BE PERMITTED TO GO TO PALESTINE

BUDAPEST, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Premier Petru Groza of Rumania today told a press conference here that Rumania is in full sympathy with Zionism and that no Zionist will be prevented from emigrating to Palestine. He added, however, that this attitude does not extend to the "rich who, under the cloak of Zionism, wish to dispose of their assets at a higher foreign value abroad."

HOME OF CZECH JEWS IS CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SAYS CONFERENCE OF JEWISH LEADERS IN PRAGUE

PRAGUE, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- A resolution hailing the United Nations decision to establish a Jewish state in Palestine, but pointing out that for Czech Jews Czechoslovakia remains the only homeland was adopted here at the first General Assembly of the Association of Czech Jews held since the war. Frantisek Fuchs, vice-chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities, was elected chairman of the Association by the 150 delegates who attended the convention.

The text of the resolution read: "Knowing the Nazi persecution of the Jews of Europe and the fact that hundreds of thousands of Jews are still wandering about without hope of a peaceful home or the possibility of a human existence, we welcome the decision of the United Nations to set up a Jewish state in Palestine. In this connection, however, we declare that our home is here in the country of the Czechs and in the midst of the Czechs. We trust that the entire civilized world will assist in securing the Jewish state in Palestine. With the creation of the Jewish state in Palestine Zionism outside of Palestine loses its right of existence."

WAR MINISTRY OFFICE IN SLOVAKIA CHARGED WITH DISCRIMINATING AGAINST JEWS

BRATISLAVA, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The Association of Racial Persecutees of Bratislava has submitted a complaint to the Czechoslovak War Ministry charging that discrimination against Jews exists within the machinery set up by the government for granting special certificates to former partisans and ex-concentration camp prisoners.

A similar charge has been raised by the Bratislava newspaper Tribuna which asserts that the Office of the Legions, a local department of the War Ministry, discriminates against Jews. The certificates issued by the Ministry entitle bearers to various preferences in their dealings with the government.

POLISH JEWS SEEK LONG-TERM GOVT. LOAN TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTER IN LODZ

WARSAW, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The Jewish Central Committee of Lodz is seeking a long-term loan for 50,000,000 zlotys from the government bank for converting the Scala Theatre in Lodz into a cultural center for the Jewish community of Poland, it was reported here today.

The committee is also hopeful of financial assistance from the Joint Distribution Committee and other Jewish groups. The Ministry for Culture and Art has already granted 4,000,000 zlotys to the committee to reconstruct the theatre, which was turned over to it by the municipality of Lodz.

BELIGAN QUEEN, HIGH OFFICIALS JOIN IN CEREMONY HONORING JEWS MURDERED BY NAZIS

BRUSSELS, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- High government officials, including Queen-Mother Elizabeth, participated in a ceremony honoring the memory of the 28,000 Belgian Jews deported from the Malines internment camp near here to German "death camps" in the East. A monument was unveiled during the ceremony.

FRENCH COURTS GET TEST CASE ON RIGHT OF JEWISH POLITICAL REFUGEES TO ASYLUM IN COUNTRY

PARIS, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- A test case seeking to establish that laws concerning illegal entry to France shall not be invoked against Jewish refugees seeking political asylum is now in the Paris courts.

The prosecution of the two Jewish defendants, Abraham Sonnabend and Magdalen Reichenstein, came as a surprise to the Jewish community because of recent assurances by the Ministry of Justice that prosecution for illegal entry would be dropped in cases involving Jewish refugees. It is for this reason that the major Jewish organizations have decided to carry the case to a final decision and establish a precedent.

Previous to their arrest and prosecution the status of both of the defendants was legalized and they were issued labor permits. Among the prominent leaders of the Resistance who testified in behalf of the defense were Justin Godart, former cabinet member, and Charles Lederman, chairman of the Jewish Union for Resistance and Mutual Aid.

LESS THAN 100 JEWS ENTERED ARGENTINA DURING 1947; ABOUT 40,000 OTHERS ADMITTED

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Less than 100 Jews entered Argentina in 1947, it was revealed here today following the publication of an official report on immigration during the past year. A total of close to 40,000 persons entered the country in 1947 and, according to a recent official announcement, the government is planning to admit 100,000 Italian immigrants in 1948.

Of the 1947 immigrants, more than 2,000 were Poles who were members of General Anders' army, while an undetermined number are believed to be German nationals. Discrimination against Jews in matters of immigration continues unabated despite the replacement of the former chief of the immigration department, Dr. Santiago Peralta, a known anti-Semite, and a liberalization of the immigration laws last summer.

ORT TRAINING COURSES SET UP IN GREECE; ONLY 9,000 JEWS SURVIVED WAR

PARIS, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The setting up of a number of ORT vocational courses in Greece was announced today by Leon Denenberg, representative of the organization, who has just returned from Athens. He reported that out of a pre-war population of 80,000 only 9,000 Jews are now living in Greece.

Dr. H. Sonnabend, professor of social sciences at the University of Johannesburg and chairman of the South African section of the ORT, following a survey of the Jews in France, reported here that the Jewish communities in central and western Europe are now the main source from which Jews in Palestine and elsewhere must draw the "human material to reconstruct Jewish life."

CANADIAN LABOR ZIONISTS INTENSIFY FUND-RAISING PLANS; MIZRACHI TO SUPPLY FIELD HOSPITAL

MONTREAL, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The Labor Zionist movement of Canada announced today that it has launched an intensified drive to raise speedily \$350,000 for the Histedruth.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Mizrachi Organization disclosed that it will raise funds for the purchase of a field hospital and armored truck for Ahar Etzion and other religious settlements which have recently been under Arab attack.