

Friday, January 30, 1948

JTA Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

U.S. SOLDIERS KILL JEWISH REFUGEE IN DP CAMP IN GERMANY; 38 JEWS ARRESTED

MUNICH, Jan. 29. (JTA)--A Jewish refugee died today as a result of being bayoneted by American soldiers when he resisted arrest during a search in a Jewish DP camp at Heidenheim, near Stuttgart.

U.S. Army headquarters said the Jew was stabbed after he had hit a guard and attempted to escape. It was reported that so far 38 Jewish DP's have been arrested as a result of the raid.

U.N. COMMISSION VOTES TO ESTABLISH ARMED MILITIA IN PALESTINE; ACCEPTS AGENCY PLAN

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 29. (JTA)--The U.N. Implementation Commission today voted unanimously for the earliest possible establishment of an armed militia in Palestine even before the creation of Provisional Councils of Governments there.

The Commission not only accepted in principle the recommendations of the Jewish Agency for the establishment of such a militia, but decided to accept the help of the Agency in this endeavor. The question of arming the militia was also discussed by the Commission.

To implement its decision, the Commission appointed the Philippine representative Senator Vicente Francisco as a "committee of one" to contact the Jewish Agency and the mandatory power concerning the setting up of the militia. The Commission also designated Panama's Eduardo Morgan to establish immediate contact with the British on the disposition of the 30,000 displaced Jews on Cyprus.

TWO EXPLOSIVES ROCK JERUSALEM; 15 HAGANAH MEN ARRESTED; SPORADIC SHOOTING CONTINUES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29. (JTA)--A loud explosion behind the water tower in the Jewish quarter of Romema here today rocked the entire area. Simultaneously another blast shook the Old City where 1,800 Jews have been besieged for several weeks. No details of either explosion were available immediately.

An entire Haganah unit comprising 15 men was arrested today at the children's settlement, Armon Yeladin, on the outskirts of Jerusalem. The settlement is now completely defenseless. While the Haganah members were being disarmed, a sharp volley of automatic fire was directed from the Arab village of Lifta towards Jerusalem.

Sniping by Arabs in scattered sections of Palestine continued today, resulting in three Jews seriously wounded and 10 slightly. Six Jews were injured in the Abu Kibir area after the withdrawal of British troops and two Jews driving near an Arab Legion camp at Bet Naballah were hurt when their car touched off a land mine.

Two British policemen were shot and killed today on Ben Yehuda street, one of the city's main thoroughfares, by members of the Stern Group.

BRITAIN IS ATTEMPTING TO TURN PALESTINE INTO A DEATH TRAP, JEWISH AGENCY CHARGES

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 29. (JTA)--The British Government was charged here today by the Jewish Agency with attempting to turn Palestine "into a death trap in which the Jews will be forced to surrender to England's own Palestine scheme, or go down fighting for their very lives." A statement issued by a spokesman for the Agency reads as follows:

"The declaration of the British Foreign Office spokesman in London yesterday (see page 4 of today's Bulletin) that the United Nations plan for Palestine did not contemplate the creation of a Jewish militia is another step in a calculated program to obstruct and nullify the United Nations decision.

"The pretext that 45 percent of the population in the proposed Jewish state is Arab is shallow sophistry. Manifestly, if Arabs in the Jewish state are willing to enlist in the militia to be organized for its defense on the basis of the United Nations decision, their services will be accepted. But their refusal to cooperate cannot render the entire plan inoperative and makes effective Jewish defense even more urgent. Hence, speculation about the intentions of the Arabs and mathematical calculations about the composition of such a militia are obvious propaganda.

"The British are trying to obscure the fact that the immediate organization and equipment of such a militia is imperative and that it was clearly authorized by the United Nations. The United Kingdom is apparently determined to do its utmost to block it.

"The effect of the British Foreign Office strategy is to render the Jews of Palestine defenseless. The United Kingdom's program is in violation of its duties as a good member of the United Nations. While continuing on its own admission to supply arms to the Arab states, it at the same time denies them to the Jews. The British are attempting to turn Palestine into a death trap in which the Jews will be forced to surrender to England's own Palestine scheme or go down fighting for their very lives."

SEVENTY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS CONFER ON PALESTINE SITUATION; CABINET MEETING EXPECTED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. (JTA)--A delegation of Senators is being formed to take up the question of Palestine on the highest Administration levels, it was learned today, following a meeting last night of 70 Senators and Representatives with Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America. There is reason to believe that the Palestine question will be discussed in the near future at a meeting of the Cabinet, Dr. Neumann said.

Dr. Neumann reiterated his warning to the Senators and Congressmen that the situation in Palestine would deteriorate further if it is not firmly checked now, resulting in a much more serious situation for the United States. He urged on the Congressional gathering the necessity of these five steps: 1. Lifting of the embargo; 2. Recognition of Haganah as a defense force; 3. Working out the problem of an international police force through the Security Council; 4. U.S. leadership in the Security Council in organizing such a force; and 5. Diplomatic action through regular diplomatic channels to check aggression against Palestine by the Arab states.

"Situation In Washington Is Bad," Dr. Neumann Reports; Warns Against Panic

NEW YORK, Jan. 29. (JTA)--"The situation in Washington is bad, but we should not lose our heads and give way to panic," Dr. Emanuel Neumann reported today upon his return from the Capital.

Speaking at a press conference, the ZOA president said that during his visit in Washington he gained the impression that "the most influential advocate of a

virtual reversal of the United States policy with regard to Palestine is Secretary of Defense Forrestal." He emphasized that Secretary Forrestal "has never been friendly towards the cause of Zionism and he is now pressing forward very strongly."

In his report, Dr. Neumann said that influential circles in Washington seem to have accepted the inevitability that if the present developments in Palestine continue, Britain might be asked to stay on and continue to occupy the country, the U.N. Implementation Commission would get nowhere, and nothing would happen. "I pointed out that this was a very naive conception; that the chances were that the security situation in Palestine would deteriorate, and whereas now they would have to deal only with a small blaze, in three or four months they will have a full-scale conflagration, which would take much more effort to deal with," he declared.

"A great deal of confusion has been created in the minds of people in Washington regarding the consequences of the partition plan and the possible consequences of the shipping of American arms to Palestine," Dr. Neumann said. "The most fantastic conclusions are drawn by Congressmen who believe, or were made to believe, that a mere modification of the embargo or permission for arms to reach the Haganah would inevitably result in war," the Z.O.A. president reported. "How was that to come about and who was to declare war upon us--Syria, Lebanon or any other country--no one knew.

"Another argument was that this was tied up with the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan involved the industrial rehabilitation of European nations. Such rehabilitation was dependent upon fuel oil which would have to come from Arab sources; this could be brought into Europe only if a pipeline were built; and somewhere this pipeline would be interrupted--and in that way the partition plan would stymie the Marshall Plan," he said.

U.N. Charged With Setting Up Jews As "Targets For Genocide"

Louis Bromfield, co-chairman of the American League for a Free Palestine, today called upon President Truman to issue an executive order permitting the sale of arms for defense to Palestinian Jews.

Bromfield also accused the United Nations of "having virtually set up the Hebrew People as targets for genocide" by virtue of the partition plan and "now appears to be abandoning them." The Security Council has only a few weeks to act, he said, "since it is now definite that a date early this spring has been set for the massacre of the 800,000 Hebrews in Palestine and the million more residing in Arabian countries."

1,000 Arabs Cross From Transjordan Into Palestine, Report Says

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29. (JTA)--About 1,000 armed Arabs have crossed the frontier into Palestine from Transjordan under the personal command of Prince Faisal, heir presumptive to the throne of Transjordan who opposes his father's cautious, unaggressive policies, informed sources in Amman reported today.

The underground Haganah radio broadcast tonight a warning to all Arab villages situated in Jewish areas or adjoining Jewish settlements against harboring any Arab bands.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN RECEIVES B'NAI B'RITH LEADERS; NATURE OF CONVERSATION NOT DISCLOSED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. (JTA)--President Truman today received Frank Goldman, President of B'nai B'rith, and Maurice Biggier, National Secretary of the organization. No comment was available on the subject of their talk with the president.

FOREIGN OFFICE DENIES BRITAIN PLANNING TO ALLOW ABDULLAH TO OCCUPY PALESTINE

LONDON, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- A Foreign Office spokesman denied today that Britain is planning to allow King Abdallah of Transjordan to occupy a large part of Palestine and seize for itself Haifa, the port of Aqaba and the Negev area.

"Britain has no such plans," he declared. He also revealed that talks between the British and Syrian Governments on the recent illegal entrance of Arabs into Palestine from Syria are continuing, and that no answer had been received from Transjordan to the British note concerning the entry into Palestine of 730 soldiers from Transjordan.

A government spokesman said yesterday that Britain does not consider the Jewish Agency's demand for the establishment of a Jewish militia in Palestine to be in accord with the U.N. partition decision.

Commenting on reports that Moshe Shertok, head of the political department of the Agency, told the U.N. Implementation Commission that the British refusal to permit the setting up of an armed Jewish militia defies the U.N. Palestine decision which Britain promised not to obstruct, the spokesman emphasized that the Assembly's action did not provide for a Jewish militia but for a force which would be recruited from the populations in both states. Since the area of the Jewish state contains 45 percent of Palestine's Arabs, it would be expected that the militia would be organized on a similar ratio.

Shertok was, therefore, the spokesman said, "not on solid ground" when he complained about Britain's attitude to the Jewish militia. At the same time, the spokesman admitted that it would be up to the Implementation Commission to decide about the actual composition of the militia in view of the fact that certain sections of the population are opposed to the U.N. decision.

Egyptian Air Force Preparing to Operate Against Jews, London Hears

Stressing that "non-intervention on the Spanish model is in fact in full swing in the Holy Land," the leftist weekly Tribune called today for a Government statement on British armament exports to the Middle East. Such a statement, the weekly declared, might be reassuring in view of persistent reports that the Egyptian Air Force, with the knowledge of the British, is preparing to operate against the Jews from airfields in southern Palestine immediately after the British mandate is relinquished on May 15.

The Tribune cites other reports to the effect that two squadrons of Mark II Mustangs, with all accessories, had been rushed from Britain to Egypt for that purpose. The weekly gave no grounds upon which to substantiate the reports.

U.S. AMBASSY IN PARIS TO GIVE RECEPTION TO U.J.A. DELEGATION TODAY

PARIS, Jan. 29. (JTA)--The United Jewish Appeal delegation, composed of leaders from several Jewish communities in the United States, will be given a reception tomorrow at the American Embassy here.

The members of the delegation today visited Jewish institutions in and around Paris. At a press conference later they emphasized that their mission is entirely non-political in character. The group will leave for Munich on Sunday.

GENEVA PARLEY APPROVES RIGHT OF INDIVIDUAL REFUGEES TO APPEAL AGAINST I.R.O. DECISIONS

GENEVA, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- The right of a refugee to appeal against any decision of the International Refugee Organization declaring him ineligible for assistance or protection was approved today by the Preparatory Commission of the I.R.O. now in session here.

It also approved Secretariat proposals for creating procedures for determining eligibility and establishing semi-judicial machinery to review the decision of field eligibility officers. This directive is based on standards within the I.R.O. constitution which declared as eligible persons displaced from their homelands, slave laborers or victims of Nazi racial, religious and political persecutions.

This directive will permit refugees to appeal from adverse decisions before a special review board for eligibility appeals. The board consists of chairman Marcel de Beer, former Justice of Appeals at Brussels and at present law professor at Brussels University; Henri Tremaud, former prefect of Haute Savoie, and one other member not yet selected.

The review board will make policy decisions on appeals in individual cases only. The executive secretary will make policy decisions on eligibility matters, consulting, when necessary, the members of the board. Members will visit the field on circuits, traveling separately in each area, hearing appeals and, after consultation with the legal and eligibility officers in the field, will take appropriate decisions. When issues are doubtful or far-reaching, or an important policy question is involved, the member may postpone decision for submission to the full board at Geneva.

Voluntary agencies which are assisting in caring for refugees in Germany, Austria and Italy were invited to submit written recommendations on I.R.O. policy and operations for consideration by an informal Ad Hoc committee at yesterday's meeting. The Ad Hoc committee is composed of Brazil, France, Netherlands, United Kingdom and the United States.

21 OSWIECIM GUARDS EXECUTED; UKRAINIAN SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR KILLING 13,000 JEWS

WARSAW, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- Twenty-one Germans who served as guards in the notorious Oswiecim concentration camp were executed today in Cracow, it was announced here.

At the same time, it was reported that Wasyl Piarec, a Ukrainian who was responsible for the death of 13,000 Jews from Borslavl, has been sentenced to death. Piarec succeeded in hiding out in Lower Silesia for three years, but was seized by the police when two Borslavl residents recognized him in the Breslau railway station.

VIENNA JEWISH COMMUNITY ASKS AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT TO BAN FILM ON RITUAL MURDER CASE

VIENNA, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- The Jewish community in Vienna has informed the Austrian Ministry of Interior that it believes it inadvisable to permit the showing of the film, "The Trial," which deals with a famous ritual-murder trial in the Hungarian village Tisza-Eszlar during the last century. The Austrian producers of the movie, which is not yet completed, maintain that the purpose of the picture is to fight anti-Semitism.

The Hungarian Government has protested to the Austrian Government over the projected release of the film, claiming that using a Hungarian village as the locale of the story is prejudicial to amicable relations between the two countries.

38 DISPLACED JEWS ARRIVE IN UNITED STATES FROM GERMANY; MET BY USNA AND HIAS

NEW YORK, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- A total of 138 Jewish immigrants arrived here today aboard the Marine Flasher from Bremerhaven, Germany. The ship carried 577 immigrants from many parts of Europe. Representatives of the United Service for New Americans and of the HIAS met the new arrivals when they landed.

COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN BOHEMIA-MORAVIA JOINS WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

NEW YORK, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress announced today that the Council of Jewish Communities in Bohemia and Moravia, representing 20,000 Jews in more than 50 communities, has voted to become affiliated with it. Dr. Arnost Frischer is president of the Council.

At the same time, Dr. I. Schwartzbart, head of the Congress' Organization Department, reported that the Jewish Communities of Tunisia, representing 120,000 Jews, will hold its first conference on Feb. 1st.

B'NAI B'RITH EXECUTIVE WILL MEET IN WASHINGTON TO DECIDE ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- Leaders of B'nai B'rith from all parts of the United States and Canada will gather here on Tuesday for the annual meetings of the National Executive Committee of the organization, the Veterans Affairs Committee and the National Americanism Commission. Important decisions will be taken at these meetings, which will be held at the Statler Hotel.

The meetings will be preceded on Monday evening with a B'nai B'rith dinner rendered in honor of Admiral Louis E. Denfeld, newly-appointed Chief of Naval Operations. Leading U.S. military and government officials, as well as members of Congress, will attend the dinner at which President Truman will be represented by his military aide, Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan.

PROF. ALEXANDER MARX HONORED AT JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ON 70TH BIRTHDAY

NEW YORK, Jan. 29. (JTA) -- Professor Alexander Marx, librarian and Jacob L. Schiff Professor of History at the Jewish Theological Seminary, was the guest of honor tonight at a celebration marking his 70th birthday. The celebration, which was attended by more than 250 of his colleagues, students and friends, was held at the Seminary.

Prof. Marx has been a member of the Seminary's faculty since 1903 when he came to this country from Germany at the invitation of Dr. Solomon Schechter, then president of the Seminary. When he became Seminary librarian, the library collection consisted of 5,000 volumes and three manuscripts. Under his direction, it has developed into what is today recognized as the world's foremost Jewish library, with a collection of almost 145,000 books and 8,000 manuscripts.

Letters of congratulations to Prof. Marx from scholars all over the world were read at the celebration. In his tribute to Prof. Marx, Dr. Louis Finkelstein, president of the Seminary, said that the breadth of his learning has not only inspired the hundreds of young men who have been his students at the Seminary's Rabbinical School, but has had a profound influence on the course of Jewish scholarship in this country and abroad.