Jewish Agency Informs U.N. of Arab Aggression: Objects to Plan for Jerusalem

On the advice of the Implementation Commission, the Jewish Agency today submitted a memorandum to Secretary-General Trygve Lie formally charging the Arab countries neighboring Palestine with aggression.

The memorandum, which is documented with photographic proof, calls the attention of the Secretary-General to the fact that the Arab countries threaten the peace of Palestine and the Middle East. Under the provisions of the U.N. Charter, the Secretary-General has the power to direct such a charge to the attention of the Security Council.

The Agency today objected to a proposal by the United Nations working group on the city of Jerusalem that only citizens of the international city be allowed to serve on its Legislative Council.

The resolution adopted by the U.N. General Assembly provided that Arabs and Jews and other residents of Jerusalem might retain their citizenship in their respective states. But the draft statute issued last night, provides that while all
residents may vote in the elections to the Legislative Council, only citizens of Jerusalem may serve on that body. Terming this a "very severe limitation and hardly democratic," the Jewish Agency urged that all residents of Jerusalem, irrespective of their citizenship, be permitted not only to vote, but also to be elected.

The draft statute provides that seats in the Legislative Council be allotted to Arabs, Jews and "others" on a fixed basis, irrespective of the numerical strength of the three groups. The Agency termed this a departure from the principles laid down in the U.N. Palestine resolution in that it makes for discrimination. Since "other" residents for the most part identify themselves with Arab Christians, the Arabs would predominate under the proposed arrangement and the Jews, a majority of the population, would be reduced to a minority status, the Agency maintained. The "other" residents would be given 10 percent of the Legislative seats under the statute although they constitute only one percent of the population.

15 KILLED IN PALESTINE FIGHTING; SIX-HOUR BATTLE RAGES NEAR OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- Six Arabs, one Jew and one British soldier were killed and 27 persons were injured today in a fierce six-hour battle, the most intense fighting to take place near the Old City of Jerusalem since the Arabs launched their war on the Jews more than two months ago. At the end of the sharp engagement two companies of British infantry were in command of positions dominating the Jewish section of the Old City.

Elsewhere in Palestine, it was reported that seven Arabs were shot and killed and five others wounded by a party of Jews. The incident is said to have occurred somewhere in Central Palestine, near an RAF airfield.

In the Jerusalem battle the British, who were forced to lay down a heavy barrage of mortar shells before gaining command of the situation, were first brought under fire by Arabs sweeping toward Jewish positions from the Jaffa Gate, one of the entrances to the Old City. The Arabs, intent on finally breaking through the Haganah defense lines which have protected some 2,000 Jews cut off for over a month in the center of the city, warned the British to get out of "no man's" land or be exposed to machinegun fire. The British, however, did not evacuate but fought the Arabs, many of whom had taken up previously prepared positions on roof tops.

At the same time, the Haganah engaged a part of the Arab force. The crossfire trapped a second unit of British troops who were forced to lie low until the machine gun fire died down. Later, they attacked Jewish positions. At one time the firing was so intense that it was impossible for ambulances to go to the aid of the wounded. No details as to the number of casualties were available. Except for military vehicles speeding about the city, all traffic was paralyzed and most of the city's inhabitants stayed indoors or, if caught outside, crouched behind the protection of low walls or trees.

The Haganah today prevented a large-scale Arab attack on the Hebrew University and the Hadassah Hospital, on Mt. Scopus, on the edge of this city when it launched a surprise attack on Arab formations which were massing at Remallah, 15 miles north of Jerusalem, for a raid on the institutions which lie in a direct line between the Arab citadel and the Jewish sections of Jerusalem. At about the same time, a second group of Jewish militiamen struck at the Arab village of Biber from which attacks have been launched on the Jewish suburbs of Talpioth and Mekor Haim, south of Jerusalem.

The consul generals of the United States, France, Iran, Belgium and Egypt conferred with Palestine High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham this afternoon concerning measures to protect the safety of consular representatives. Cunningham assured them that the government had taken measures and would continue all efforts to protect members of the consular staffs.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- Thirty Republican congressmen today addressed a letter to Secretary of State George C. Marshall in which they expressed concern and "honest worry" about the American policy on Palestine and asked what the United States is prepared to do to help implement the United States decision for partition.

"We believe there is grave danger," wrote the Congressmen, "that if the United Nations Palestine decision is rendered inoperative far more even than this decision be jeopardized, and the United Nations itself may be made ineffective."

Concerned that the embargo on arms to Palestine and other Middle Eastern countries "may be misleading as to the intentions" of the U.S., the Representatives put questions to Marshall. They asked: 1. What the U.S. will do to help carry out the U.N. decision on Palestine? 2. What instructions will the American delegate to the U.N. receive from the government on questions referred to the Security Council the U.N. Palestine Commission for effectuating the U.N. decision? 3. If it is true that Great Britain is allowing the continuation of arms shipments to the Arabs; and if these shipments interfere with implementation of the U.N. decision? Whether support of the violent resistance of the Arab Higher Committee and by the Arab nations endangers the maintenance of international peace and security?

The signatories to the letter stated that it does not imply criticism or direction, but asks only "the necessary information so that the attitude of the U.S. may be clear and the influence of our attitude be utilized to the full for the preservation of peace and the enhancement of the prestige of the U.N." The letter, which is the third sent to the Secretary since last April on Palestine, was initiated by Rep. Abraham E. Javits of New York. Seventeen states are represented by the signers.

Mr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency Executive, today called on a number of Senators, Congressmen and government officials this visit to Washington since his return from Palestine.

The office of Secretary of Defense James Forrestal today denied to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Forrestal is initiating a drive to revoke the U.N. decision on partition Palestine. The statement said that Forrestal's position was the same as that of the State Department.

Secretary Marshall Reported Concerned Over British Position in Middle East

LONDON, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- United States anxiety over the position of the Western Powers in the Middle East, following the recent handling by the British Foreign Office of relations with Iraq, Transjordan and other nations in that area, was expressed by Secretary of State Marshall in a week-end message to British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, an informed British source revealed today. The precise contents of the message remain a top secret for the present.

Hector McNeil, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, declared today that the U.N. Palestine Commission has not yet formally requested a meeting with British officials in London prior to its departure for Palestine. The statement was made in a written reply read to Commons in response to questions previously put by Members of Parliament.

Lloyd's today announced that its rates for insurance on war, strike or civil disorders risk for goods destined for Palestine have been increased about three-and-a-half times. Last month the costs took a 70 percent jump. The new war risk rates are the highest quoted by Lloyd's since the end of World War II.
WARSAW, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Three guards of the notorious Flashov concentration camp were sentenced to death today; one received life imprisonment and 12 others were given five to 15 years prison terms. The sentences were handed down by a Cracow war crimes tribunal.

More than 50,000 Jews were "processed" for other camps through the Flashov camp, the court established, while between 10,000 and 12,000 Jews were killed there. The three guards sentenced to death are Edmund Zdowywski, Lorenz Landesdorfer and Weinand Glasw.

VIENNA, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- The Restitution Commission here has been reorganized into special departments for commercial enterprise, real estate and miscellaneous claims, it was announced today.

Latest available figures show that a total of 3,514 restitution claims have been filed with the commission since it was set up, with the monthly figure averaging 50. Only 342 cases--approximately one in ten--have been acted on, it was reported. Austrian officials assert that the lag in processing claims is due partly to a shortage of reliable judges, office space and facilities for the Commission.

Restitution officials in the Soviet zone have been greatly hampered by the Russian attitude that all properties ever held by German organizations or occupation authorities are subject to reparations as German assets. Very few Jews who were deprived of their property by the Nazis expect to retrieve their property if the Russians persist in this view.

DUBLIN, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- Robert Briscoe, the only Jewish member of the Irish Parliament, who has held office continuously since 1927, has been re-elected, according to official tabulations released today.

Briscoe, a Revisionist Zionist, ran on the government party ticket and was re-elected after a campaign in which his opponent, Sean McBride, used anti-Semitic propaganda in an attempt to defeat him.

LONDON, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- Captain Roy A. Farran, who left Palestine the day he was acquitted by a military court on a charge of murdering Alexander Rubovitz, a 16-year-old Jewish boy, was today decorated by King George at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Farran, a former Commando who was serving with the Palestine police when Rubovitz disappeared, received the Distinguished Service Order and a second bar to the Military Cross.

Following his acquittal and return to England, a warrant for Farran's arrest was issued in Jerusalem on the grounds that he had kidnapped the youth, but the Palestine attorney-general ordered a "stay of proceedings" and the warrant was not carried out. Farran said after the ceremony: "The King told me he was very glad the whole business was over. I told him that I had resigned from the Army and was now engaged in private industry."
London, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- Eli Eliashar, head of the Sephardic community of Jerusalem, today conferred with officials at the Foreign and Colonial Offices on the precarious position of the Jewish communities of Moslem countries, many of which are controlled by Britain.

American Jewish Congress opposes new restrictions on movement of alien visitors

New York, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress today condemned proposed regulations placing new restrictions on the movement of foreign visitors to the United States, in a statement filed today with the Department of Justice.

The statement charged that the effect of the proposed regulations would restore the outmoded concept "that a person seeking to come to this country, either permanently or temporarily, must be viewed with suspicion and treated as one whose sole purpose is to reap selfish benefits at the expense of the American people."

The proposed regulations would require every prospective visitor to the United States to undertake in advance "that while in the United States, he will not pursue any purpose not specifically authorized by immigration officials." Pointing out that the regulation imposed no standard of reasonableness on the possibly arbitrary determination of any particular immigration official, the American Jewish Congress statement said: "The entire tenor of all the proposed changes is to treat an aim seeking to come to this country for a temporary visit with suspicion and antipathy and indeed, consider him a quasi-criminal."

Hias vice-president to present report of survey of DP camps to President Truman

New York, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- Hugo E. Rogers, vice-president of HIAS and Borough President of Manhattan, who returned yesterday from a three-week survey of the DP situation in Europe, said today he would submit a report on his findings to President Truman.

Charging that the resettlement of DP's is being delayed by America's "antiquated quota system," Rogers asserted that "less than ten percent of total immigration since V-E Day was available for DP's. Only 23,534 alien immigrants," he continued, emigrated from Germany between May, 1946 and January 31, 1947.

Pointing out that under the present quota system, 27,000 visas a year are allotted to nationals of Germany, but only 6,500 to Polish nationals, and still fewer to nationals of other countries, Rogers said "there can be only one solution—we must allot the unused quotas of recent years to settle the problem."

128 clergymen of three faiths urge U.N. to expedite treaty outlawing genocide

Lake Success, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- A petition signed by 128 Catholic, Protestant and Jewish clergymen urging the U.N. Economic and Social Council to expedite an international treaty making genocide a legal crime against humanity was today received by Dr. Charles Malik, of Lebanon, president of the Council. The petition was presented by Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken and James N. Rosenberg, leaders of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, who submitted a similar appeal last week to the U.N. Secretariat.
NEW YORK, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- Judge Morris Rothenberg, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, under whose leadership $45,900,000 has been raised for land purchase in Palestine, was today unanimously re-elected for a fourth term as head of the Fund at its annual meeting, which was held at the Waldorf-Astoria. A board of Directors of 60 and an administrative committee of 17 were also chosen.

The meeting sent an appeal to President Truman, urging that he intercede in the present Palestine situation and lift the embargo on shipment of arms to Palestine. Leaders of all branches of the Zionist movement participated in the parley.

KURT PEISER ELECTED EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT OF PHILADELPHIA FEDERATION AND JEWISH APPEAL

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- Kurt Peiser, executive director of the Federation of Jewish Charities and the Allied Jewish Appeal for ten years, has been elected executive vice-president of both organizations. Announcement of the election was made in a joint statement issued by Elias Wolf, president of the Federation of Jewish Charities, and Samuel H. Daroff, president of the Allied Jewish Appeal.

In this new assignment, Peiser will be responsible to the presidents and the boards of Trustees of both the Federation and the Appeal for the continued study of their needs and the needs of their member agencies, for the development of greater sources of support, and for public relations. Miss Frances N. Harrison has been named executive director of the Federation, and Ephraim R. Gomberg, executive director of the A.J.A.

ISAAC H. LEVY, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, DIES AFTER BRIEF ILLNESS

NEW YORK, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- Isaac H. Levy, noted attorney and vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, died today at Mount Sinai Hospital after a brief illness. He was 65 years old.

An active leader of the J.D.C. and the United Jewish Appeal, Levy also took a great interest in other Jewish communal activities. He was elected last month to the executive committee and the Board of Directors of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

Edward M.M. Warburg, J.D.C. chairman, issued a statement in behalf of the administrative committee of the organization, which reads in part: "In the death of Isaac H. Levy, the J.D.C., and the Jewish men, women and children throughout the world in whose behalf he gave of himself so unstintingly, have lost a devoted friend. His keen incisive judgment, his great gift of organization, his wise counsel and the unfailing interest he demonstrated in the cause of the tragic victims of Nazism constitute an unforgettable record of service."

SHELOMO MENDELSON, JEWISH WRITER AND SOCIALIST LEADER, DIES IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- Shlomo Mendelson, Jewish educator and writer, died here last night at the age of 51. of a heart attack. He came to the United States from Poland after the outbreak of the war in Europe.

Mendelson was active in the movement to promote secular Jewish education in Poland and held the post of dean of Poland's Jewish secular schools from 1921 until 1939. Long an active member of the Jewish Socialist Fund of Poland, Mendelson became head of the Bundist movement in this country upon his arrival. He is the author of numerous critical studies of Jewish writers and contributed many articles to literary and political publications in Poland.

The contents of this bulletin are not for publication without special authorization.