

Monday, February 16, 1948

# JTA Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

ZIONIST NATIONAL PARLEY URGES GOV'T. TO VINDICATE PALESTINE POLICY. TAKE LEAD AT U.N.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Hundreds of Zionist leaders from all parts of the country today asked the American Government "to vindicate its policy" on Palestine by instructing its delegate at the U.N. Security Council to take the lead in supporting the request for sending an international army to Palestine to implement the partition decision.

Assembled for a two-day emergency conference here, the approximately 700 delegates adopted a resolution asking the United States to invoke sanctions against the Arab governments promoting aggression against Palestine and defying the United Nations. The resolution also requested the government to lift its embargo on arms to the Middle East for the Jewish defense forces in Palestine--which alone are fighting for the implementation of the U.N. partition decision.

Convoked by the American Zionist Emergency Council, the conference will end tomorrow, on the eve of an expected decision by the State Department which must instruct its representative at the U.N. Security Council on his position when the Palestine security situation is discussed at Lake Success some time this week. Secretary of State George C. Marshall indicated during the week-end that the final U.S. decision on the implementation of the partition plan will be made after the Palestine Commission submits its security report to the Security Council.

Emphasizing that they are meeting here "to collect a note from the American Government duly signed on November 29" when the U.S. delegation at the U.N. voted in favor of Palestine partition, most of the speakers at the conference pointed out that certain elements in Washington who oppose the implementation of the partition decision have gained great strength in the Administration. However, they pointed out that they are determined to fight any action on the part of the government which would undermine U.N. efforts to implement partition.

### Neumann Charges Well-Financed Campaign Seeks to Reverse U.N. Decision

This line of action will be put into practice tomorrow by the delegates when they visit their Congressmen and Senators to impress them with the fact that the American Government is "honor-bound" to help in the implementation of the partition decision to which it has pledged itself.

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, who was one of the principal speakers, charged that a well-financed political campaign has been launched from a central source for drastic revision or complete reversal of the U.N. decision. He said that the move to bring about the reversal involved an unsuccessful attempt to secure a negative bi-partisan policy on Palestine. "Leaders of both parties were approached," Neumann said, "with the idea that it is time to take Palestine from politics, but we believe this maneuver miscarried and there will be no bi-partisan policy except the traditional American one."

Secretary of Defense James Forrestal was cited by Neumann as responsible "more than anyone else" for the argument that American national interest requires reversal

of the U.N. decision. Neumann declared that it is "dangerous to leave the defense of the country in the hands of a Secretary of Defense who bases his policy on oil and the atomic bomb, and shows a lack of appreciation of the bases of American national interest."

### Z.O.A. Head Warns of British Plans to Sabotage U.N. Decision

Declaring that the action of the Security Council revolves around the attitude of the United States, Neumann said that "unless the American delegate in the Council takes the lead, things are likely to drift there" as they have drifted in Washington. He reported that there is no intention here of reversing the arms embargo "for the time being." Terming the embargo "an American unilateral decision," Neumann said that "the United States made the decision on its own and can therefore unmake it" without waiting for recommendations from the Security Council.

Neumann warned that British sabotage of the U.N. decision and the organized Arab invasion of Palestine countenanced by Britain, constitute the first step in the destruction of the moral authority and life of the U.N. "Current British policy aims to leave the country in a state of chaos and expose it to all the horrors of an avoidable war" he said, urging withdrawal of American aid to Britain "until it mends its ways."

(Reports from London today stated that informed quarters believe that Britain's latest tactic in opposing partition will be to dissuade the small powers in the U.N. from participating in the organization of an international force. The reported offer this week-end of the British Government to place troops at the disposal of the U.N. Governor of the international city of Jerusalem was seen as a maneuver to place Britain in a strong position to enlarge the international zone through use of her troops if the expected large-scale violence follows termination of the Mandate.)

### Silver Calls Friends of Partition Plan to Stand By It

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, head of the American section of the Jewish Agency executive, told the conference that "as the time for implementing the U.N. decision on Palestine draws near, the powerful forces which have always been opposed to it, inside and outside government circles, have mobilized for a last determined attack." He warned the delegates that efforts are being made to reopen the entire debate on the Palestine issue. "All the arguments which were fully aired during the long deliberations at the U.N. before the partition decision was taken are being put forward again as new reasons for revision or abandonment of the plan. "Utterly misleading pleas of so-called moderates for some new compromise are being made as if the partition plan did not in itself represent the supreme decisive compromise," he stated.

Dr. Silver said partition was a compromise found acceptable by the U.N. as "fair and reasonable," with the procedure for implementation defined. "The enemies of the plan have rallied to defeat it," he said. "It now remains to see whether the friends of the plan and those who voted for it will yield to intimidation and threat or will rally to maintain the authority of the U.N. and insure its implementation by acts and not words."

Other speakers included Reps. Franklin J. Maloney, Republican member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and John W. McCormack, Minority Leader of the House, Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the Z.O.A. Administrative Council, who presided, and various representatives of all Zionist factions. Both Congressmen urged the government to support the speedy establishment of a Jewish militia and the dispatching of an international force for Jerusalem and the remainder of Palestine.

BLAST THREE BRIDGES IN NORTHERN PALESTINE TO HOLD UP INVADING ARABS FROM SYRIA

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The Haganah this week-end blew up three bridges connecting northern Palestine with Syria in a move to hinder the free flow of Arab irregulars from Syria and Lebanon into the heart of Palestine. One of the bridges, across a tributary of the Jordan River northwest of Dan, was completely destroyed. The other two were seriously damaged.

One span, the Hussein Bridge, was blasted today, while the other two were attacked last night. At the Hussein bridge the attack was carried out by driving an armored car loaded with explosives to the center of the structure and then setting it off. The driver dove into the water, but was shot and killed by Arab Legion sentries.

Tonight the Haganah launched a heavy attack on the village of Sessa, near Safad, from which raids have been staged on Ein Zeitim and other Jewish settlements. Eleven Arabs are known to have died and three houses were completely demolished, while eleven others were partially destroyed. In the last two attacks on Ein Zeitim, yesterday, four Jews were wounded.

On the Tel Aviv front, where some 250 Iraqi volunteers arrived late last week and launched a three-pronged attack on the Jewish city last night, new fighting began late tonight. Several Jewish-owned houses in the Maccabi quarter, outside the Haganah defense perimeter, were set ablaze and heavy firing was heard when Jewish reinforcements hurried into the area to force the Arabs out. Yesterday's two-hour attack by three detachments of guerrillas hit at the Manshieh and Hatikvah quarters and Givat Herzl. The Arabs killed two Jews and wounded two others, but left the field with their dead and wounded.

Clashes were frequent this week-end in and around Haifa where at least three Jews died from wounds, including a 12-year-old boy, and another half-dozen were injured. Five Jews were arrested in a dragnet following an exchange of shots between Arabs and Jews which soon involved British troops, injuring four. Several Arab Legionnaires were hurt when their truck was blown up by a mine between Haifa and Athlit. In the Negev, a Jewish convoy was ambushed and one Jew was killed and several were wounded.

The Irgun raided a cafe at Ramleh, killing and wounding several Arabs. Later, a few more Arabs were killed in a nearby village when they attempted to halt the underground fighters. The Irgunists also announced that they had made off with some 40 tons of ammunition and food from a military camp near Hadera, which they entered disguised as British soldiers.

Mufti's House Blasted in Jerusalem; British Protect Arab Quarter

In Jerusalem the Haganah was forced to use mortars and automatic weapons to force snipers out of positions commanding Jewish areas this week-end. A Jewish demolition squad blew up the house of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, but his nephew, who was in the building at the time, was uninjured. Following Jewish orders to the Arabs in the Talbieh quarter, near the isolated Jewish area of Yemin Moshe, to quit their homes in that part, the British erected barbed wire barriers around the section, incorporating it into a security zone to protect the Arabs.

A mobilization order was published in the Hebrew press today calling on all Palestine Jews between 17 and 25 residing abroad to register with Palestine offices in those countries in preparation for being called into active service.

The members of the United Jewish Appeal delegation visiting Palestine have expressed the opinion that an international force is needed to implement partition and to protect the Jews there. They also asked arms for the Jews and financial assistance. The delegation was tendered a reception in Jerusalem by Jewish leaders.

FRENCH COURT LEVIES TOKEN FINE ON STERNISTS; EXPRESSES SYMPATHY WITH JEWISH CAUSE

PARIS, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Two young Jews charged here with illegally storing explosives for the use of the Stern Group were yesterday fined the minor sum of 1,200 francs (approximately \$5.50) by a judge who publicly expressed his sympathy for the defendants and their cause.

The judge, M. Vincon, told the defendants, Abraham Mizrahi and Jean Martinski, that although it was illegal for them to possess the weapons and explosives, it was necessary to place in the record that the Jewish state has been recognized by the United Nations and that the citizens of the Jewish state have the right to defend its "moral and territorial borders."

U.S. PROSECUTOR COMPLETES CASE IN TRIAL OF 22 NAZIS RESPONSIBLE FOR MURDER OF MILLIONS

MUNICH, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Brig. Gen. Telford Taylor, chief American prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trials, this week-end delivered the closing argument in the trial of Otto Ohldorf and 21 other Nazi leaders who comprised a special task force charged with murdering more than a million Jews and other racial and political persecutees during the war.

Taylor declared that "the crimes involved in the case were murder--deliberate, premeditated murder; murder on a gigantic scale; murder committed for the worst possible motives." He also pointed out that some of the defendants do not believe that they committed murder because many of their victims were Jews. Final defense pleas are expected shortly, after which the court will announce a verdict.

HUNGARIAN POLICE LAUNCH INVESTIGATION INTO ATTACK ON BUDAPEST SYNAGOGUE BY VANDALS

BUDAPEST, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Police authorities today began an investigation into an attack on a synagogue here during which vandals defiled torahs and destroyed part of the interior of the building.

The desecration of the synagogue apparently took place in the early morning hours. The police expressed the belief that the vandals are members of an anti-Semitic group.

REJECTION OF RESTITUTION CLAIM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA STIRS JEWISH COMMUNITY

PRAGUE, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The case of two Jewish brothers whose application for the restitution of their textile factory at Broumov has been rejected by the authorities on the grounds that they "favored" Germans by employing six German employees among their 270 workers is receiving wide publicity in the local Jewish press.

The brothers, one of whom survived a concentration camp and the other returned to Czechoslovakia from Palestine, registered as of Czech nationality in the 1930 census, which will bar their ineligibility for restitution on the grounds that they were not nationals. A recent ruling restricted restitution to persons who registered as either Czechs or Jew. Jewish circles here point out that the District National Committee's rejection of the brothers' claim is illegal since they cannot be held responsible for the loyalty or nationality of their employees.

According to some sources here the reason for the rejection of the brothers' ruling is the alleged fact that the nationalized Czechoslovak Textile Works wants to absorb the factory. The brothers, named Goldmann, survived two other brothers who died in concentration camps. The factory in dispute is the A. Lowy & Co. plant.

SEVERAL JEWISH CHILDREN IN ITALIAN DP CAMP REPORTED STRICKEN BY INFANTILE PARALYSIS

ROME, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Several cases of infantile paralysis among children in the Adriatic Jewish DP camp have been reported and the patients have been isolated in nearby Italian hospitals.

Physicians in the camp declared today that poor housing conditions in the camp led to the outbreak of polio, but Italian authorities said that the disease was transferred to the camp by infected Italian children in the area.

S. HERBERT KAUFMAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE BROTHERHOODS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- S. Herbert Kaufman of Harrisburg, Pa., was this week-end elected president of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods succeeding Jesse Cohen of New York. The election was held here during the four-day 12th biennial convention of the Brotherhoods.

Attorney General Tom Clark, addressing the convention last night, called religion a "dynamic force" in every community in the war against hate, prejudice and bigotry. He asserted that "religion is not merely a matter of Sabbath observance," and that the fact that 50 percent of the American people do not "belong to any religious faith" was a "challenge to our religious leaders."

J.D.C. TO PROVIDE MORE THAN 5,000,000 POUNDS OF MATZOHS FOR JEWS IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- More than 5,000,000 pounds of Passover matzoahs and matzoah meal will be supplied to Jewish communities in Europe, it was announced this week-end by Moses A. Leavitt, J.D.C. executive vice-chairman. Approximately 4,000,000 pounds of the total Passover shipment is being made from the United States while the remaining 1,000,000 pounds is under preparation in the U.S. zone of Germany.

An average provision of five-and-a-half pounds of Passover products has been made for each of the 900,000 Jews in Europe supported by the J.D.C. program. Close to 20,000 cases of holiday wine have already been shipped to Europe, Leavitt said. He reported that the exclusive facilities of four large matzoah-baking firms over a period of several weeks were required to fill the agency's 4,000,000-pound order.

Peace in Palestine Still Possible, J.D.C. Regional Meeting Hears

ATLANTA, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- "In spite of the bloody clashes which have come in the wake of the partition vote, there has long been evidence in Palestine that the two peoples can live in peace," Dr. Ruth Gruber, noted correspondent, lecturer and authority on Palestine affairs, today told 200 Jewish leaders here at the second annual meeting of the Southeast Region of the J.D.C. She added that an international police force must be sent to Palestine to implement partition and restore peace.

FORMER J.W.B. OFFICIAL RECEIVES GOVERNMENT AWARD FOR RECRUITING CHAPLAINS DURING WAR

NEWARK, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Rabbi Louis Levitsky has been awarded a certificate of appreciation from the Department of the Army for "outstanding contributions to the program of the Chaplaincy Corps" during World War II, it was announced today.

Dr. Levitsky served as chairman of the Jewish Welfare Board's executive committee of the Committee on Army-Navy Religious Activities, which recruited Jewish chaplains for armed forces during the war. He is spiritual leader of Congregation Ohel Shalom here.