

Wednesday, February 18, 1948

JTA

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LAST MINUTE NEWSU. N. SECURITY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS REPORT ON PALESTINE SECURITY NEXT TUESDAY

LAKE SUCCESS, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The Security Council today decided to discuss the Palestine Commission security report Tuesday, February 24. Earlier, members of the Council had indicated it would be at least a week before they could receive instructions from their governments on the Commission's request for an international peace force for Palestine.

The Commission will hear Britain's Colonial Secretary, Arthur Creech-Jones, Thursday afternoon in its first skirmish with Britain's top official on the Palestine issue, it was announced tonight.

A six-man party will leave for Palestine within the next few days to keep the Commission informed of developments in that country. The group will consist of four high U.N. officers and two secretaries. It was pointed out here that the first reports of the Commission were based on information provided by the Mandatory, rather than by unbiased U.N. sources.

U. N. RECEIVED NO APPEAL FROM TRUMAN TO DELAY WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM PALESTINE

LONDON, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- A Foreign Office spokesman said today he was unaware of a personal appeal reportedly made by President Truman to Foreign Minister Bevin to postpone the withdrawal of British troops from Palestine. He added that he considered it unlikely such an appeal would be made. The spokesman repeated that Britain's plans for the evacuation of Palestine were final.

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U.N. COMMISSION BELIEVES SECURITY COUNCIL MAY DECIDE TO SEND FORCE TO PALESTINE

LAKE SUCCESS, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Karel Lisicky, chairman of the U.N. Palestine Commission, today indicated at a press conference that the members of the Commission believe that the Security Council will support their request for an adequate international armed force to back implementation of the U.N. partition decision.

Asked if the Commission will go to Palestine without an armed force, he avoided a direct reply, but declared that the Commission "believes in its work." In the event that the Security Council does not agree to provide armed support, the Commission will at that time determine what to do next, he stated.

Lisicky refused to comment on how an international force should be constituted. This, he said, was up to the Council to decide, in consultation with military experts. Frequently in the past, armed forces have been supplied quickly, he pointed out. "It is possible that this is the last time you are meeting the 'five lonely pilgrims,'" he told the newsmen, adding that he wished to emphasize the word "lonely."

Asked if non-implementation meant danger to the partition scheme, Lisicky replied that it would imperil implementing the General Assembly plan but not partition. He evidently drew a distinction between the two concepts.

Questioned on the present status of interim immigration, he replied that the British quota system was in operation by British will. He rebuffed suggestions as to the difficulties and the shortness of time involved in setting up a police force and said all that was involved was "the will" to do it.

Alteration of Timetable on Partition Decision Urged by Philippine Member

A sensation was created here when, following the press conference, Sen. Vincente Francisco, Philippine member of the U.N. Palestine Commission, issued a statement suggesting that the timetable fixed by the General Assembly partition resolution be altered, if necessary, in order to give the U.N. a chance of settling the Palestine issue "by peaceful means, that is--by negotiation, mediation, arbitration or other peaceful means agreeable to the Jews and Arabs."

Although the Philippine member emphasized that he was expressing his "own personal opinion," his unsolicited statement was interpreted as a trial balloon, possibly inspired by Washington. The statement suggested that "if this measure should fail and there is no alternative for the United Nations other than the formation of an international army to enforce its decision, then the choice of some neutral territory such as France or Italy as a staging area and the choice of supply routes which should not endanger the military or political security or the sphere of

influence as defined by the great powers would prove a practical basis for the formation of an international security force."

Sen. Francisco urged that if an international armed force is sent to Palestine, it should be composed of units assigned by the great powers, each unit forming only a component part of the force. He suggested that one power send only artillery units, another provide the mechanized force, while a third would be responsible for the air force. In this way no power need fear that the contingent of another nation would possibly remain in Palestine after peace is restored, since each unit could not maintain itself without the others, Francisco's statement pointed out.

Christopher Mayhew, British Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs and United Kingdom representative at the U.N. Economic and Social Council, today revealed at a press conference a British proposal that the Council call on member states to notify the U.N. of steps they have taken to absorb their share of European refugees. He refused to comment on a question seeking to define the relationship between Britain's desire to clear the refugees out of Europe and her equally strong desire to keep them out of Palestine.

ARABS LOSE 57 MEN IN BATTLE IN EASTERN PALESTINE; SUFFER GREATEST SETBACK OF CONFLICT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The Haganah today announced that 57 Arabs were killed and 80 wounded in yesterday's battle at Tirat Zvi, on the eastern border of Palestine. The official British figures are 30 Arabs and one Jew killed, while the Arab Higher Committee claimed that 76 Jews had died in the battle, which ended in the most severe setback yet suffered by the Arabs since the outbreak of hostilities.

A British police station in the town of Beisan, in the same vicinity as Tirat Zvi, was the target of a 40-minute attack this morning, but no one was hurt. Later an armored car was fired upon in the same area, but again without any casualties. Both attacks are believed to be the work of Arabs.

Arab snipers wounded four British soldiers in Jerusalem today, while two Arabs were killed and two Britons injured in an explosion which wrecked a building in the city. The Haganah reported today that its members had killed five Arabs and wounded eight others yesterday in mopping up a series of clashes precipitated by Arabs in Haifa. For the second day in a row Arab Legionnaires encamped near the city fired on a Jewish bus and killed two persons and injured several others.

A Jew was shot dead in a Tel Aviv street today, allegedly by Britons in an armored police car. Last night the Stern Group sent a task force into the Arab village of Abu Kebir, on the Tel Aviv-Jaffa front, which killed a number of Arabs. The Sternists apparently withdrew from the village, a notorious base for raids on Tel Aviv and traffic to and from the Jewish city, without having lost any men.

SIX JEWS GET SUSPENDED SENTENCES AFTER PLEADING GUILTY IN TNT SHIPMENT CASE

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Six Jews who pleaded guilty to charges that they attempted last month to ship 60,000 pounds of dynamite illegally to the Jewish resistance forces in Palestine from a Jersey City pier today received suspended sentences. Judge Sylvester J. Ryan, of Federal Court, said that although the men had committed a "rash and impulsive act," he did not regard them as criminals.

The suspended sentences were handed down after U.S. Attorney John F.X. McCahey told the court that the six men had given full statements to his office, had no criminal records and that "there was a complete absence of commercialism or racketeering."

POLAND WILL NOT PERMIT JEWS TO EMIGRATE AFTER MARCH 31; EXCEPTION MADE FOR PALESTINE

WARSAW, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Jewish leaders were informed here today by Polish authorities that no Jew holding Polish citizenship will be permitted to emigrate from the country, except if he holds a visa to Palestine. Emigration to countries other than Palestine will be prohibited after March 31, the authorities declared.

In informing the Jewish leaders of the new policy of the government with regard to Jewish emigration, the authorities emphasized that this policy is in no way aimed at Jews, but is part and parcel of the decision taken by the government with regard to emigration from the country in general.

The authorities explained that the government considers that the condition of the Jewish population in the country has become normal and, therefore, there is no longer any need to encourage Jews to leave Poland and become wanderers or inmates of refugee camps in other countries. No difficulties will be made for Jews applying for emigration passports prior to March 31, no matter what their destination is, it was indicated. Such passports will be valid for one year.

A report on the situation of the Jews in Warsaw was disseminated here today by the government information office. The report says that "gradually the Jewish population in Warsaw is being housed in reconstructed homes and the city is once again becoming the center of Jewish life, especially of its cultural life."

There are about 6,000 Jews in Warsaw at present, the report estimates. Of these, about 2,500 are employed in various kind of office work and many are working as artisans in cooperative shops. "Hundreds of private retail stores and small handicraft shops are being established," the report adds.

"The Polish Government recently assigned a building to the Jewish Committee in which the Jewish Cultural Center is now being organized," the report says. "Jewish youth voluntarily formed two labor brigades of 100 persons each who are participating in the reconstruction of the capital. The brigades chose the area of the former ghetto and have begun to clear the square in preparation for the construction of the proposed memorial to the heroes of the ghetto. Jewish youths from all parts of Poland will pass through these brigades. The youngsters are quartered in nearby army barracks."

U.S. SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO REVIEW NUREMBERG TRIBUNAL CONVICTIONS OF 14 NAZI DOCTORS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The Supreme Court yesterday refused by a vote of five to three, to consider the cases of 14 Nazi doctors found guilty by the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal of inhuman medical experiments on prisoners and concentration camp victims. The 14 doctors appealed to the Supreme Court for a reversal of their convictions by the Nuremberg court last August.

The doctors were all Nazi military personnel of high rank, including Dr. Karl Brandt, one-time personal physician to Hitler. They were convicted of performing medical experiments on Jews and other prisoners, including sterilization, castration, and executing some by freezing and in gas chambers. Seven of the 14 had been sentenced to death but had won a stay of sentence until they could appeal to the Supreme Court. Five are serving life sentences, one a 20-year sentence and another a 15-year term. No further avenue of appeal is open to them.

NINE GESTAPO OFFICIALS SENTENCED TO PRISON TERMS FOR MURDER OF JEWS IN 1938

MUNICH, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The German criminal court in Bremen yesterday sentenced nine former Gestapo officials to prison terms ranging from six years to life, it was learned here today. They were convicted on charges of murdering three Jews during the November, 1938, Nazi pogrom in Germany.

U.J.A. 1948 CAMPAIGN FOR \$250,000,000 TO BE LAUNCHED AT NATIONAL PARLEY IN WASHINGTON

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The 1948 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal for \$250,000,000 will be formally launched at a national conference of American Jewish communal leaders at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., on February 21 and 22. More than 5,000 Jewish communities from coast to coast will participate in the U.J.A. drive--the largest fund-raising effort ever undertaken by a voluntary welfare organization in the history of the United States.

Henry Morgenthau, Jr., former Secretary of the Treasury and general chairman of the U.J.A. campaign, will preside at the two-day conference which will appraise recent world developments in relation to the 1948 needs of the Jews of Europe and Palestine as well as those homeless Jews able to find haven on American shores. The Washington conference will mark the opening of 3,500 local community drives. The remaining 1,500 Jewish communities conduct their U.J.A. drives during the fall.

In announcing the national parley, Mr. Morgenthau called upon the Jews of America to marshal "their spiritual and material resources for the supremely urgent tasks of the United Jewish Appeal." He added that "we face now one of the most critical moments in the history of the Jewish people in Europe and Palestine. What the Jews of America accomplish in 1948 through the United Jewish Appeal will have a decisive effect on the destiny of the Jewish people everywhere," he said.

JEWISH CONGRESS WANTS U.N. GROUP TO INVESTIGATE JEWISH SITUATION IN MOSLEM COUNTRIES

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress today asked the United Nations to set up a committee of inquiry on Arab violence against Jewish communities in Moslem countries, declaring that such Jewish groups "were in peril of annihilation."

The request was made by Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, chairman of the political commission of the Congress, appearing as a consultant to the U.N. Economic and Social Council at a meeting of the Council's Non-Governmental Organizations Committee.

Dr. Perlzweig urged that the Council appoint a three-man committee to investigate the situation and report to its next meeting on the following three points: 1. The extent of the loss of life and property already suffered by Jewish communities in the Middle East and the Moslem world; 2. Whether, and to what extent, the governments affected are prepared to take measures to prevent further attacks on and discrimination against the Jewish inhabitants in their countries; 3. What measures are being taken to right the wrongs committed against and withdraw the discriminatory measures imposed on Jews in those countries.

BIAS GROUPS HAIL N.Y. STATE COMMISSION REPORT URGING BIAS-FREE STATE UNIVERSITY PLAN

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress today hailed the report on discrimination in New York State colleges that was submitted yesterday to Governor Thomas E. Dewey. The report urged the setting up of a bias-free state university system and the outlawing of racial and religious discrimination in institutions of higher education.

Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the Committee, urged Gov. Dewey to recommend to the state legislature "immediate passage of those sections of the law which would eliminate discriminatory practices in higher education." Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the administrative committee of the American Jewish Congress, said the "proposal was an event of historic importance in the fight against the quota system."

FRANK WEIL, RABBI ROSENBLUM PARTICIPATE IN WASHINGTON MEETING OF U.S. GROUP ON UNESCO

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Frank Weil, president of the National Jewish Welfare Board, and Rabbi William F. Rosenblum, president of the Synagogue Council of America, are participating in the meeting here of the United States National Commission on UNESCO which opened today. UNESCO is the organ of the United Nations dealing with educational, scientific and cultural problems. Mr. Weil and Rabbi Rosenblum are both members of the UNESCO Commission.

SITUATION IN PALESTINE "INDESCRIBABLY SERIOUS," LEHMAN SAYS; URGES AID BY U.S. JEWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Declaring that "an indescribably serious situation exists in Palestine at this moment," former Governor Herbert H. Lehman tonight told a meeting at the Hotel Pierre here of United Jewish Appeal communal leaders from Essex County, that "it is our primary responsibility to provide the means of protection for the 700,000 Jews in Palestine.

"The Arabs have organized themselves to defy and frustrate the will and decision of the United Nations," Gov. Lehman asserted. "The Jews want peace, but the forces that have massed themselves for a concerted attack on the United Nations, have plunged them into war--a war which the Jews are without the arms with which to defend themselves.

"If the Jews of Palestine cannot defend themselves, pending the creation of an adequate U.N. force, the inevitable result will be the utter destruction of a brave people and the nullification of a sacred decision of the United Nations. It has become painfully clear that the time calls for action--action on the part of the U.N. to implement its decision--positive action on the part of American Jews to give that decision meaning," Gov. Lehman said.

PRESIDENT BENES THANKS CZECH JEWS FOR INSCRIBING HIS NAME IN J.N.F. GOLDEN BOOK

PRAGUE, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- President Eduard Benes, today expressed his thanks to the Czechoslovak Zionist Federation for inscribing his name in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund.

The names of Benes, Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk and Ambassador Karel Lisicky were inscribed as an expression of the Czech Jewish community's gratitude for the government's position on the Palestine issue at the U.N. General Assembly session last year.

MINISTER PLINGS HAITI'S SUPPORT IN BUILDING OF JEWISH STATE IN PALESTINE

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The support of the Haitian Government in the building of the Jewish state in Palestine was promised here to Mrs. Archibald Silverman by Minister of Interior Georges Honorat. The Minister pledged the government's support at the conclusion of a private showing of two Palestinian films attended by Cabinet members and other top government officials.

Mrs. Silverman, prominent Zionist leader from New York who is here on a mission for the Keren Hayesod, was later received by President Dumarsais Estime. The Minister of Education has asked that arrangements be made for distributing the Palestinian films in the schools of Haiti.

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