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PITCHED BATTLE WAGED IN HAIFA; MANY CASUALTIES REPORTED AS JEWS, ARABS, BRITONS CLASH

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- A pitched battle of several hours duration developed in Haifa this afternoon and evening, beginning with sporadic sniping and progressing to a point where several hundred Jews, Arabs and British soldiers turned the streets of the central section of the city into a battleground criss-crossed by machinegun bullets and mortar shells.

First official reports listed four persons dead and more than 50 wounded. Eyewitness accounts told of large numbers of casualties, with the dead and wounded often remaining where they fell for more than an hour because the gunfire was so intense that first aid crews could not reach the victims.

Until dusk both Jews and Arabs confined themselves to rifles, machineguns and grenades, but afterwards the Jews brought up a battery of mortars which were turned against Arab sniper posts and caused considerable damage to a number of buildings. Some of the shells dropped inside the perimeter of the police headquarters in the area. British troops and parachute troops were rushed up in armored cars, supported by Bren gun carriers.

Twelve Jews Make Daring Escape from Jerusalem Central Prison

Twelve Jews today made a daring escape from the Jerusalem Central Prison by tunnelling their way under the prison walls and coming up in a street bordering on the jail. The escape was not noticed for a long time. When it was discovered, sirens sounded throughout the city, but no sign of the prisoners was uncovered. The tunnel was approximately 600 feet long. The prison is located within the most heavily guarded security zone in Jerusalem.

A Haganah punitive squad last night raided Yazur, a major Arab base athwart the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway and blew up three houses before returning to Tel Aviv. One British soldier was shot and killed last night in an engagement with Arab guerrillas near Bet Dajan and two Arabs were killed. In Haifa late yesterday at least four Jews were killed and many more were wounded in several Arab attacks on buses.

The refugee vessel which was intercepted by the British off the Palestine coast late yesterday was today escorted into Haifa. It is expected that its 700 visaless Jewish passengers will be deported to Cyprus.

U.N. TRUSTESHIP COUNCIL DISCUSSES DEFENSE OF JERUSALEM AGAINST OUTSIDE ATTACK

LAKE SUCCESS, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The question of defending the city of Jerusalem against a possible attack from the outside after it is transferred to the administration of the United Nations was the major item under discussion today at the Trusteeship Council. The consensus of opinion among the members was that the Security Council will have to give serious consideration to the problem.

The Council tonight adopted a U.S. proposal providing for a three-year residency qualification citizenship in the internationalized city of Jerusalem. A British alternative calling for five years residence was defeated.

TRUMAN REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON PALESTINE ISSUE; CALLS IT A TEST FOR THE WORLD

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The Palestine issue was cited by President Truman as one of the major world problems in a report which he submitted to Congress today, prior to his departure for a trip to Florida and the Caribbean Sea.

The President emphasized that the United States delegation at the United Nations did not present the initial proposals for a solution of the Palestine problem, but took an active part in arriving at such recommendations.

"The main objective of the United States Government on the Palestine problem," the President reported, "was to assure the fullest possible consideration by the General Assembly of all practicable alternative solutions and the reaching of a carefully reasoned decision expressing the best judgment of the United Nations as a whole in the wisest disposition to be made of this small territory."

In a letter which accompanied the report, Truman said that the United States will continue its policy of "carrying its full share of responsibility and leadership in the United Nations." Presenting the Jewish and Arab arguments on Palestine, the President stated: "For the United States, as for other members of the United Nations, these rival plans--each based upon historical, political and legal arguments--have created a dilemma of infinite complexity."

The complete text of the General Assembly's partition resolution, together with a map of the proposed Jewish and Arab states, is attached to the report. "Today the Holy Land tests the ability of the world community to make a peaceable disposition of this problem now marked by strife," the President emphasized.

Head of U.S. Delegation to U.N. Seeks Instructions on Palestine

Senator Warren Austin, head of the U.S. delegation at the United Nations, will arrive here on Monday to discuss with State Department officials his position on Palestine at the Security Council, it was announced today by the State Department.

A spokesman for the Department declared that Sen. Austin has been in very close touch with Secretary of State George C. Marshall on the Palestine issue. The spokesman was unable to say whether Secretary Marshall had discussed the statement prepared for the Security Council with President Truman before the President left on his vacation.

In a memorandum to President Truman and Secretary of State Marshall, the Association of Parents of American Students in Palestine requested that students from the United States be given the "basic human right" to defend themselves when attacked without threat of penalization by the American Consulate in Jerusalem.

The Association, which represents "500 parents of students who are now in Palestine," stated that while American students do not ask for any "extraordinary measures of protection" from the U.S. Government, "they trust that their Government will not withhold from them those services and amenities which citizens engaged in lawful pursuits in any foreign country have a right to expect."

U.S. MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRIA INVESTIGATES REPORTS OF TRAINING DE'S FOR HAGANAH

VIENNA, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Headquarters of the United States Forces in Austria today opened an investigation of reports that Jewish displaced persons in zones of Austria occupied by the Western Powers were receiving training for Haganah service in Palestine.

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BEVIN CONFERS WITH PROF. BENTWICH, BRITISH JEWISH LEADER, ON SITUATION IN PALESTINE

LONDON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Professor Norman Bentwich, noted British Jewish leader, who returned here from a visit to Jerusalem, today conferred with Foreign Secretary Bevin at the Foreign Office on the present situation in Palestine.

ARAB AGENTS RECRUITING PRO-NAZI REFUGEES IN ITALY TO FIGHT AGAINST JEWS IN PALESTINE

ROME, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Arab agents are today recruiting mercenaries to fight against the Jews in Palestine from among the Yugoslav Ustashi and Chetniks and the Ukrainians, Albanians, Circassians (former inhabitants of the northwestern area of the Caucasus) and other groups here who were on Hitler's side during the war, and are now under the care of the International Refugee Organization.

Able-bodied men, both inside and outside the I.R.O. camps, who are between 22 and 32 years of age, and who accept the Arab terms of payment--their fares to the Middle East and maintenance of their families in exchange for their pledge to serve in the Arab forces for at least one year--are being given visas by the governments of Egypt, Syria and Transjordan. Where the mercenaries are of Moslem origin, they are being officially "resettled" by formal negotiations between the governments concerned and the I.R.O. which, however, disclaims any knowledge of what use the individuals are put to on arriving in the Middle East.

U.N. COMMITTEE DISCUSSES QUESTION OF VALIDITY OF OLD PACTS GUARANTEEING MINORITY RIGHTS

LAKE SUCCESS, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The Social Committee of the U.N. Economic and Social Council adopted a United Kingdom proposal to request the Secretary-General to study whether international treaties undertaken under the aegis of the League of Nations for the protection of minorities and to combat discrimination are still in force.

The British proposal was a substitute for a motion which would have referred the entire matter to the International Court of Justice where a final decision would have been rendered.

I.R.O. HEAD APPEALS FOR FUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE TRANSPORTATION FOR 20,000 DP IMMIGRANTS

GENEVA, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Twenty thousand European refugees and DP's could be resettled immediately in new homes if ocean transport were available, it was stated here today by William Tuck, executive-secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization.

Tuck appealed by letter to the 21 member governments of PCIRO for advances from next year's contributions to a special fund for ocean transport authorized at the January meeting of the Commission. This fund would enable the organization to charter ships to move the 20,000 refugees already selected for immigration and completely documented by national selection missions operating in DP camps in Germany, Austria and Italy.

SEN. FERGUSON HOPES SENATE WILL ACT SOON ON HIS BILL TO ADMIT DP'S TO UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Senator Homer Ferguson of Michigan today expressed hope at a press conference that his bill to admit an unspecified number of displaced persons to the United States would reach the Senate floor for consideration by March 1.

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J.A. LAUNCHES 1948 DRIVE FOR \$250,000,000; CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON TO MAP PLANS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- More than 350 prominent Jewish leaders arrived today from all parts of the country to participate in a two-day national conference which will mark the opening of the \$250,000,000 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal in 1948. The conference will begin tomorrow night at the Shoreham Hotel.

American participation in the immigration and reconstruction programs of Palestine, and the work of relief and rehabilitation among Jews in other countries, will be the major subjects of discussion at the parley. The delegates will also consider a program of aiding refugees who find a haven in the United States.

Among the speakers at the conference will be: Henry Morgenthau, Jr., U.J.A. general chairman, who will outline the major relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction needs of the Jewish survivors in Europe; Dr. Israel Goldstein, national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal; William Rosenwald, honorary president of the United Service for New Americans; Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee; Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, vice-chairman of the J.D.C. who will report on the organization's program this year; Ted O. Thackrey, editor of the New York Post; Mrs. Golda Meirson, head of the political department of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem; Arnold J. Goldenberg, of Minneapolis, and Milton Kahn, of Boston.

U.J.A. Delegation Returns From Mission in Europe, Palestine; Goes to Washington

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The Jews of Palestine will "hold out until such time as the United Nations either implements its decision, or affords the Jews of Palestine means of self-protection," a spokesman for 12 members of the United Jewish Appeal delegation, which has been surveying the needs of the Jews in Europe and Palestine, said today.

The 12 delegates arrived here today by air from Paris and proceeded immediately to Washington to report on their four-week tour to the national U.J.A. conference at which the U.J.A. campaign for \$250,000,000 will be launched. The other members of the delegation are expected to arrive here on Sunday.

Julius Fligelman, of Los Angeles, co-chairman of the delegation, who spoke for the group which arrived today, said that the Jews of Palestine "are determined to die fighting, if need be, in order to secure not only their own future, but also the future of the remnants of Jewry, in the concentration camps of Europe." Although conditions in the Jewish DP camps in Europe "are worse than we imagined," Fligelman said, "the people in them are more determined than ever before to prepare themselves for constructive lives elsewhere."

\$400,000 Raised for United Palestine Appeal as Canada Drive Opens

MONTREAL, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- A total of \$400,000 was raised yesterday at the opening of the United Palestine Appeal drive here at which Mrs. Golda Meirson, who is now touring the United States and Canada, was the main speaker.

"The bank of blood contributed by the Yishuv must be matched by a bank of money from the Jews of this country," Mrs. Meirson said. Expressing confidence in the eventual victory of the Jews in the present Palestine conflict, she predicted that the Jewish state would be created within the next few months. A contribution of \$100,000 for the U.P.A. was presented by the Bronfman family here.

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1,000 JEWISH REFUGEES IN BAVARIA DEPRIVED OF DP STATUS; WILL HAVE TO LEAVE DP CAMPS

MUNICH, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Approximately 1,000 Jewish displaced persons living in Bavarian DP camps were declared ineligible today for DP status by the American Military Government in Bavaria because they arrived in the U.S. zone after April 21, 1947. The displaced Jews will be unable to receive I.R.O. assistance as a result of the ruling which also makes them liable to expulsion from the camps.

The recently-arrived Jewish refugees, who fled here from Rumania and Hungary, will be compelled to work in the German economy under the new regulation. It was learned here, however, that the I.R.O. is willing to extend to them the same assistance afforded other displaced persons if the AMG officials will agree.

STATE DEPARTMENT EXTENDS U.S. IMMIGRATION PREFERENCE TO THOUSANDS OF DP'S IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- United States immigration preference to DP's of the U.S. zones of Germany and Austria, and in Italy and Shanghai, has been extended to include infiltrates who entered these areas after December 22, 1945, but before April 21, 1947, it was revealed today by the HIAS, which has been advised by the State Department that it may start registering such newly-eligible refugees.

The directive of President Truman which has been giving visa preference to displaced persons who came to the U.S. zone before December 22, 1945, will now include thousands of refugees who otherwise would face years of waiting before their immigration numbers would be reached.

According to Isaac L. Asofsky, HIAS executive director, any alien who can prove that he resided in the American zones of Germany and Austria, or other areas included in the Truman directive, or who registered with an American consul prior to April 21, 1947, will be eligible for immigration to the United States under the existing U.S. preference program for DP's. Asofsky foresaw in this new State Department decision the possibility of early passage of legislation to admit to this country a greater number of displaced persons.

DAIA APPEALS TO PERON TO INTERVENE IN BEHALF OF JEWS DETAINED FOR DEPORTATION

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- An appeal to President Juan Peron to intervene in behalf of nine Jews who have been detained by the immigration authorities for illegal entry into Argentina and who are awaiting deportation was made today by the DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jews. The message was signed by Dr. Ricardo Dubrovsky, president, and Dr. Benjamin Rinsky, secretary, of the DAIA.

Some of the nine detainees entered Argentina from neighboring countries while the others, possessing visas for various Latin American countries, overstayed their transit periods. The appeal to Peron pointed out that several of the detainees have been living in Argentina for many years, that all of them are gainfully employed and that some of them hold police identity cards.

JDC HELPS 205 REFUGEES TO EMIGRATE FROM SHANGHAI; MOST EN ROUTE TO U.S.

SHANGHAI, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Two hundred and five Jewish men, women and children left here this week aboard the S.S. General Meigs with the assistance of the Joint Distribution Committee. Most of them - 187 - are coming to the United States. They will be met in San Francisco by representatives of the United Service for New Americans.

NEW YORK BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICIAL UPHOLDS BAN ON NOVELS ATTACKING ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The ban on the circulation of two popular novels attacking anti-Semitism in America in the library of a large New York high school was upheld today by Frederic Ernst, associate superintendent of the academic high school division of the Board of Education. He indicated that the order holds for other schools in the city, if the books are banned by the school principals.

Ernst announced the retention of the ban on "Gentleman's Agreement" and "Focus" after a committee of teachers in De Witt Clinton High School reported that after careful study of the two volumes they found nothing objectionable in them and urged that the ban imposed by Dr. John B. Walsh, principal, be rescinded.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SOUTH AMERICA BADLY NEGLECTED, RABBI LEVITSKY REPORTS AFTER TOUR

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Jewish religious education in South America has been badly neglected, according to a report made here today by Rabbi Louis Levitsky who has just returned from a tour of inquiry in seven Latin American countries on behalf of the Rabbinical Assembly of America.

Rabbi Levitsky, who is spiritual leader of Congregation Ohab Shalom in Newark, N.J., said that although two-thirds of the 550,000 Jews in South America live in Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and Santiago, there are no teacher-training schools in any of those cities. He said that "there are many fine Jewish secular schools" in the communities he visited, but there are practically no schools offering religious instruction.

\$390,000 CAMPAIGN FOR JEWISH EDUCATION IN CHICAGO TO BE LAUNCHED NEXT MONTH

CHICAGO, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- A campaign to raise \$390,000 for this city's Jewish religious schools will be launched next month by the Board of Jewish Education of Chicago, it was announced today by Frank G. Marshall, president of the board.

Marshall pointed out that the B.J.E. has served the Jewish community of Chicago for the past 25 years and at present supervises 74 schools with an enrollment of over 15,000 students. The board also conducts the only teacher-training program in the midwest, Marshall said.

The Intercollegiate Zionist Federation of America announced that it will hold its annual seminar at the University of Chicago the week-end of February 28-29, with representatives of 24 midwest colleges attending.

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH LEADER TO INVESTIGATE DISUNITY AMONG JEWISH FORCES IN PALESTINE

JOHANNESBURG, So. Africa, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Dr. L.I. Rabinowitz, chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregation here, left for Palestine to investigate whether unity among the Jewish armed forces in Palestine can be established.

Prior to his departure, he said that the breakdown of negotiations for unity among the Haganah, Irgun and Sternist forces has led to confusion in the South African Jewish community and it was essential to investigate the matter on the spot. He will stop off in Kenya to visit the detention camp at Gilgil where Jews from Palestine have been sent by the government for alleged acts of terrorism.

AGUDAS ISRAEL BEGINS PUBLICATION OF HEBREW DAILY IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Publication of a new Hebrew daily began here when the first issue of "Hayoman" (The Daily News) appeared on the stands. The paper is the official organ of the Agudas Israel.

BECAUSE OF WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN WILL APPEAR TUESDAY