

Tuesday, February 24, 1948

JTA Daily News Bulletin

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

HAGANAH ASKS JEWS TO REMAIN CALM AFTER JERUSALEM BLAST; TENSION MOUNTING; 52 DEAD

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The Haganah today appealed to the Jews of Palestine to remain calm and not to take the law into their own hands as tension mounted throughout the country in the wake of the worst explosion in recent Palestine history which took the lives of more than 50 Jews here yesterday. Meanwhile, David Ben Gurion and other members of the Jewish Agency executive, who had been meeting in continuous session in Tel Aviv since the blast in the Jewish business section of the city at 6 A.M. yesterday, returned to Jerusalem this afternoon to take whatever action may be necessary in relation to the security situation.

Rescue operations continued all day yesterday, through the night and today and will go on tonight until it is certain that all victims have been removed from the wreckage of several buildings, one of which collapsed completely following the explosion. Thus far, nine more bodies were recovered today, bringing the total of known dead to 52 with nearly twice that many injured and wounded. A dozen more Britons and Jews were slain during the night in clashes between police and troops and Jewish civil guards and underground forces.

Despite boasts from Arab sources that Arabs were responsible for the outrage, which left half the Jewish shopping area resembling London during the "blitz," Jewish circles here continued to hold to the belief that British soldiers and policemen were responsible for the deed. Eye-witness accounts, related to Haganah and Jewish Agency investigators, were unanimous in stating that the explosion was caused by the blowing up of two British Army trucks filled with explosives which were placed at an intersection of several streets and then fused and set off by men dressed in gray uniform. The bombers fled the scene in a police armored car which had preceded them to the intersection and which made off in the direction of security zone "B."

Jews Hold British Responsible Despite Government's Denial

Although an official government statement said it was "unbelievable" that Britons could have been responsible for the deed, a Jewish Agency spokesman last night said that all available information points to the British.

(In London today Conservative leader Anthony Eden asked the government for a statement on the Jerusalem bombing. Under-Secretary for Colonies David Rees-Williams told Eden and other M.P.'s that the government was investigating the incident, but that there were no indications that Britons were involved as the Jews of Palestine allege. He added that he would make a further statement to Commons this week. The Cabinet, meanwhile, is understood to have received a full report of the incident and the resultant situation in Palestine.)

The government today rejected a Jewish Agency demand that all British troops be withdrawn from the Jewish areas of the city and that army and police vehicles submit to search at Jewish civil guard posts before being permitted to enter the

ewish neighborhoods. The Agency also proposed that if British police were required to enter Jewish sections on duty they be accompanied by strong detachments of Jewish security forces. In some areas Jewish defense units have already erected barbed wire and concrete barriers making it impossible for vehicles to enter major roads leading into the Jewish parts of the city.

Irgun Threatens British With "Execution" If They Enter Jewish Areas

Yesterday immediately after the explosion when almost every able-bodied man in the city was rushed to the area to assist in the rescue operations or mount guard against possible further attack, Britons were advised to leave the scene of the explosion where they were assisting in the excavating and remain out of Jewish areas for their own safety. Army authorities have forbidden soldiers off duty to visit the Jewish neighborhoods. The Irgun ordered all Britons to remain out of the Jewish areas under pain of "execution," and it and the Stern Group last night carried the attack to the British, blowing up a military truck and attacking a police station.

Glass, mortar, wood and sections of furniture, as well as complete doors, were scattered for hundreds of feet around the spot where the two trucks were blown up. In the midst of the debris, sometimes over two feet high, long queues of volunteer workers passed bricks and debris from hand to hand as new sections were uncovered in the hunt for victims. The injured received first aid on the spot and the more seriously wounded were taken to hospitals.

Following is a partial list of those killed in the blast: Eliahu Fisher, Alisa Danal, Mr. and Mrs. Beracha-Castan and their daughter, Miriam; Malka Opatovsky, Shulamith Bauman, Rivka Parnes, Jacqueline Abutbul, a Mr. Philipovitz, Albert Sasson, Israel Gadiel, David Shiffer, Mina Hochberg, Ruth and Yoav Meyuchas, aged 12 and two, respectively, and their parents (the father's name is Benzion, but the mother's name is not yet known), Elimelech Mordetzky, four months old, Itzhak Moridetzky, four, Zehava Hollander, Haim Manfred Goldman, Haim Schoenberg, Rosi Weiss, who arrived on a visaless ship. The rest of the victims who were in the Amdursky Hotel at the time of the explosion are still buried under the debris.

Dr. Silver Scores Palestine Govt. for Failure To Protect Jerusalem

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government's failure to protect Jerusalem and its residents was scored here last night in a statement by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, commenting on the Jerusalem bombing. "The outrage in Palestine, with its frightful toll of life, along with the similar outrage three weeks ago, must be blamed on the Palestine Government's unpardonable failure to take the most elementary measures to protect the Holy City of Jerusalem and its residents," he said.

"We are not in a position here to comment on charges of eye-witnesses that British forces are implemented in this dastardly act. But there is no doubt that these outrages are the most direct result of the British policy of malevolent 'neutrality' and non-cooperation with the United Nations decision," Dr. Silver's statement declared.

The Agency office in New York announced the receipt of a cablegram from its Palestine office which said that Haganah men stationed at a Haganah roadblock at Romema, who checked and spoke with the occupants of the army trucks and the armored car responsible for the explosion before the blast occurred, "testified that the drivers of the trucks and the occupants of the armored car were English."

U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL TO OPEN PALESTINE DISCUSSION TODAY; INTERNATIONAL FORCE IN BALANCE

LAKE SUCCESS, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The United Nations Palestine Commission request for the dispatch of an international force to implement the U.N. partition decision in Palestine will be debated here tomorrow by the 11-nation Security Council.

At least seven affirmative votes are required before the Council can reach a favorable decision, according to the group's rules of procedure. Of the eleven nations represented on the Council, only six voted in favor of partition at the General Assembly last November, while four abstained and one opposed it. The favorable votes were cast by the United States, Soviet Union, Ukraine, Canada, Belgium, and France. The abstainers were Britain, China, Argentina, and Colombia, while Syria voted in the negative.

The question of whether the seven votes can be obtained was a matter of major speculation in U.N. circles today. Observers pointed out that if the Commission's request is not approved, the matter may be referred to the major powers under the provisions of the U.N. Charter.

Interest also centered on Washington where U.S. delegate Warren Austin was meeting with Secretary of State George C. Marshall in a last-minute discussion of the American position on an international force. It is believed that the American position will be put forward early in the Security Council discussion. (In Washington a State Department spokesman, asked if the U.S. position has already been formulated, replied that Sen. Austin will be ready when the Council discusses the matter.)

Jewish Agency Charges Britain Aids Arabs, Weakens Jews in Palestine

The Jewish Agency yesterday submitted to the Council and the Commission a 12,000-word formal indictment of British policy in Palestine, specifically charging the British with strengthening the Arabs in their "war" on the Jews of Palestine and in opposing the U.N. partition decision, with weakening the defenses of the Jewish community and seriously threatening peace and security in the Middle East. This is the first time since the U.N. decision on partition that the Agency has made such a charge against the British Government.

Asserting that the Arabs are "powerfully encouraged" by the "atmosphere of tolerance and relative impunity in which they are able to operate," the Agency stated that at the same time the "Jewish population of Palestine is refused permission openly and legally to organize its own defense." The document added that under these circumstances the Jews "have come to recognize that only their own forces stand between them and annihilation." But for the efforts of the Haganah, the memorandum insisted, "the world would have witnessed in Palestine a massacre of Jews by Arabs with the Mandatory Power remaining neutral and passive, or interfering belatedly and ineffectively."

The memorandum also declared that whereas Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech-Jones gave the impression in Commons that large-scale infiltration of Palestine by Arabs from surrounding countries came as a surprise to the British, the Agency had given the Palestine Government advance warning of the arrival of a number of such units.

The document hit out strongly against British refusal to permit the early organization and arming of a Jewish militia, declaring that the Mandatory's refusal ensures conditions in which the killing of Jews shall have free scope. Any delay in the preparatory steps necessary for the early formation of the militia is "extremely perilous," it added, pointing out that a "militia cannot be created overnight."

The government's policy of refusing to permit increased Jewish immigration after February 1, as recommended by the U.N. General Assembly, had raised the hopes of those seeking to nullify the U.N. partition, it argued.

1948 U.J.A. CAMPAIGN FOR \$250,000,000 LAUNCHED WITH TEN-DAY DRIVE FOR \$50,000,000

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The 1948 United Jewish Appeal campaign for \$250,000,000 for overseas relief and Palestine needs was launched here this week-end with the announcement of a special drive for \$50,000,000 within the next ten days. The greatest philanthropic campaign to be launched by the U.J.A. or any private agency in the world was opened at a two-day national conference of hundreds of Jewish communal leaders.

The raising of a cash emergency fund of \$50,000,000 was revealed to the U.J.A. parley by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman. A minimum of \$5,000,000 will be collected daily from today until March 2, this period to be known as the "Ten Days of Decision," he stated.

Speaking on behalf of President Truman, Attorney General Tom C. Clark said that the President regarded the U.J.A. campaign as "one of the most important undertakings that any group ever embarked upon." Clark characterized the support for the building of Palestine as "an investment in the peace of the world of tomorrow" and expressed the view that "the troubles that now beset this new Jewish state set up through the United Nations will soon be overcome."

The Attorney General compared the difficulties of the Jewish settlers in Palestine with those of early American pioneers. "Just as there were many things that beset those pioneers who suffered here in our country 160 years ago," said Clark, "so I know that those who now suffer in Palestine shall come through in just the same way that those Americans did. I feel certain that all thinking people and those who believe in and practice brotherhood will see to it that this young state receives the assistance that it needs in order that it might carry out its destiny."

World Peace Endangered If U.N. Fails on Palestine, Morgenthau Says

Morgenthau, who delivered the keynote address at the parley, pointed out to the delegates that the decision in Palestine would affect the peace and security of the entire world.

Declaring that neither a Jewish state in Palestine nor peace is possible if the U.N. fails, Morgenthau said that "the Arabs have declared war on the U.N.," thereby imperiling world peace. "If the U.N. fails," he asked, "then who knows where the first atomic bomb will fall?" He stated that the Jews of the world and particularly of Palestine "are now being put to the test" and expressed the hope that American Jewry would have "the backbone, stamina and guts" to help realize the dream of centuries.

Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, said that "every ounce of food J.D.C. puts into Europe is a vote for peace." He estimated that the J.D.C. in 1948 would have to spend \$30,000,000 to offset the inadequacies of intergovernmental aid programs in meeting the needs of displaced Jews in Europe and Cyprus. He said 75,000 Jews would be helped with U.J.A. funds to reach the new Jewish state in Palestine and an additional 20,000 would emigrate to various countries including the United States.

Warburg stated that United Nations establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine would not only "help reduce the problem of the homeless and displaced Jews

Europe" but also benefit millions of others by promoting expanded industry, commerce, agriculture and opportunity in the Middle East.

USNA Head Forecasts Early Action By Congress on DP Immigration

Edwin Rosenberg, president of the United Service for New Americans, expressed confidence that Congress would shortly enact legislation permitting larger numbers of European refugees to enter the United States. He said that assistance given to Jewish refugees by the United Service and to Christian refugees by Christian welfare agencies, had been instrumental in creating favorable public opinion for more liberalized immigration regulations.

William Rosenwald, honorary president of U.S.N.A., said that "American Jews face the challenge to carry on an unparalleled reconstruction program in 1948" through the U.J.A. He pointed out that 25,000 Jewish refugees had been admitted to the United States in 1947 and been helped to speedy adjustment to American life with the aid of the U.S.N.A. "The role which United Service has played in providing a systematic and effective adjustment program for new immigrants," he stressed, has been a significant factor in the widespread support for favorable Congressional action for liberalizing immigration policies."

Dr. Israel Goldstein, national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, pointing out that the U.J.A. goal for 1948 is the largest ever undertaken by American Jewry, said that the U.J.A. "is an earnest of their resolve to back up the decision of the U.N." Much larger resources in the form of government grants and loans will be needed, he said, for the settlement of a million Jews in Palestine, but it is important that Jews themselves should be the first to respond."

Making the first public report of the findings of the U.J.A. overseas delegation, which visited Palestine, France, Germany and Italy, Julius Fligelman, of Los Angeles, co-chairman of the delegation, stressed that the Jewish state must be given the maximum financial assistance "to protect the lives of its people, the integrity of the U.N. and the future of the Jewish survivors of Europe." He called upon the American people to extend, through the U.J.A. campaign, maximum financial aid to the Jews of Palestine who, he said, "will fight on alone, if necessary, but will never give up the struggle to be free men and women in a homeland of their own."

Goldstein, Rosenwald, Wise Re-elected National Chairmen

Morgenthau made public the re-election of Rabbi Goldstein, Rosenwald and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, of New York, as national chairmen of the 1948 drive. Rabbi Wise is vice-chairman of the J.D.C.

Edmund I. Kaufmann, of Washington, D.C., was named chairman of the National Advisory Committee, and Mrs. David M. Levy, of New York, honorary chairman of the National Women's Division. Isidor Coons and Henry Montor, of New York, were re-chosen as executive vice-chairmen.

Other officers include Samuel Rothberg, of Peoria, Illinois, as national chairman for Initial Gifts; Rudolf G. Sonneborn, of New York, head of the National Trade and Industry Division; Julian B. Venezky, of Peoria, chairman of Regions; and Milton Kahn, of Boston, head of the Interim Committee.

W.B. SPONSORS AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY; LEE FRIEDMAN ELECTED PRESIDENT

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The Jewish Welfare Board has become the sponsor of the American Jewish Historical Society in an arrangement which guarantees the continued autonomous functioning of the 56-year-old Society, it was announced here this week-end, at the 46th annual meeting of the AJHS at Dropsie College.

Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach, of Philadelphia, who retired from the presidency of the group after serving for 27 years, hailed the Society's new arrangement with the Board as a "new era" for the Society, which will enable the A.J.H.S. "to fulfill the hopes of its founders, discharge our scholarly responsibility and satisfy the demand for knowledge and the proper presentation of American Jewish history." Dr. Rosenbach was succeeded in the presidency of the A.J.H.S. by Lee M. Friedman, of Boston, author, historian and Jewish community leader. Friedman has written extensively on American Jewish history and has long been identified with the Society.

One of the first results of the sponsorship arrangement will be the establishment of a museum of American Jewish historical material in the J.W.B. building in Washington. Edmund I. Kaufmann, of Washington, will head a committee to raise \$100,000 to equip and operate the museum for five years.

\$500,000 CAMPAIGN FOR HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM TO BE LAUNCHED IN U.S. THIS SPRING

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- A campaign to raise \$500,000 for the Hebrew University of Jerusalem will be launched here this spring, it was announced today by the American Friends of the Hebrew University. Dr. Israel S. Wechsler, president of the group, said that the drive, which will be climaxed by a \$1,000-a-plate dinner, will also mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the University.

The month of April has been designated as "Hebrew University Month," it was announced by Philip G. Whitman, newly-named chairman of the campaign, who also disclosed that there are now 150 American students studying at the University. Despite the present situation in Jerusalem, classes at the University are continuing uninterrupted, although in some instances, lectures have had to be held off the campus areas, he said.

NUMBER OF QUALIFIED JEWISH TEACHERS IN U.S. INSUFFICIENT FOR NEEDS, PARLEY HEARS

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- There are only enough qualified Jewish teachers in this country to provide religious instruction for a small minority of America's Jewish youth, Rabbi Bernard Mandelbaum, registrar of the rabbinic department of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, declared at the opening session of a two-day eastern regional conference of the Leadership Training Fellowship which is being held here at the Seminary.

The Fellowship, of which Henry R. Goldberg is director, is an organization of young people between the ages of 13 and 18 who are preparing themselves for careers of service to American Jewry. Delegates to the conference represent 18 communities in five east coast states, as well as several Canadian communities. A special delegation from Chicago represents the midwest region of the Fellowship. Only 45 qualified instructors will be graduated this year by all the Jewish teachers' seminaries in this country, Rabbi Mandelbaum said, and hundreds of Jewish communities throughout the country will be vainly seeking their services.