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26 BRITONS KILLED AS STERNISTS BLAST TROOP TRAIN IN RETALIATION FOR JERUSALEM BOMBING

JERUSALEM, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Twenty-six British soldiers were killed today and 50 wounded seriously enough to require hospitalization when a Cairo-Haifa troop train was blown up by three mines near Rehovoth. The Stern Group immediately assumed responsibility for the action, asserting that it was in retaliation for last Sunday's explosion in Jerusalem in which 54 Jews died.

The mines, set off electrically by extremists in a nearby orange grove, demolished two of three military coaches and derailed and damaged the remainder of the train. A fourth mine failed to explode. The truck was torn up for several hundred yards distance.

About 1,000 refugees intercepted last night aboard the blockade runner "Builders and Fighters" were this afternoon transhipped to a British deportation ferry in Haifa harbor and taken to Cyprus. No incident was reported either during the boarding or transshipping operations.

In various attacks in all parts of Palestine a total of at least 12 Jews and 15 Arabs met their death this week-end. In Haifa, the Haganah penetrated the heart of the Arab area and blew up a truck loaded with explosives intended for use against the Jews. Five Arabs were killed, 32 wounded and the garage in which the vehicle was parked and three adjacent houses were demolished. At Magdiel, near Haifa, six Arabs were killed in an attempt to storm the Jewish village, while in the port city the body of a murdered Jew was found today. One Jew was killed by Arab snipers in Safad and another in Holon.

Six Jews Die in Tel Aviv Border Fight; Snipers Active in Jerusalem

Six Haganah men were killed on the Tel Aviv-Jaffa border today when a Jewish detachment penetrated an Arab sector in an attempt to upset an offensive for which the Arabs had been preparing for days. The raid was preceded by scattered Arab mortar fire which destroyed at least one house in a Jewish quarter. Near Beth Djan, in the Tel Aviv area, a Jewish house was blown up by a bomb hurled off a speeding Arab truck.

Snipers were active throughout the day in Jerusalem and its environs. At least three Jews fell victim to their bullets and a strong sniper attack on the road leading up Mt. Scopus to the Hadassah Hospital and the Hebrew University was beaten off only after the Jews drew up two armored buses and blasted away at every bullet flash for several hours. Arabs also made a determined attack on the Yemin Moshe quarter of Jerusalem, using automatic weapons and hand grenades. A food convoy nearing Jerusalem was attacked and a Haganah guard was killed, but the convoy fought its way through to the Jewish section of the city, nonetheless.

A special issue of the Official Gazette, published yesterday, gives the High Commissioner legal power akin to a dictator over all of Palestine after tomorrow. Today, British military headquarters released a new warning to both Jews and Arabs to the effect that soldiers will fire impartially on all persons involved in shooting incidents, regardless of who precipitated the clash.

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BRITISH MP'S URGE SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON BREACH OF PEACE IN PALESTINE

LAKE SUCCESS, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Forty-five members of the British House of Commons have urged the Security Council to take all necessary measures to deal with existing and threatening breaches of peace in and around Palestine, it was revealed here this week-end.

The request, embodied in a cable to U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie, also stated that the MP's are asking their government to carry out its obligations as a member of the U.N., as well as to end military assistance to those Arab states which defy the authority of the U.N.

At a Trusteeship Council session during the week-end the United States representative, Benjamin Gerig, proposed a plan for the composition and election of the Administrative Council of the internationalized city of Jerusalem which virtually rejects the draft plans proposed by a working group of experts several weeks ago.

In essence, the American plan calls for a legislative council of 40 members, 10 members elected by the Jews, 18 by the Arab residents, one by other residents and nine members elected as representatives-at-large. The U.S. plan was put forward after considerable criticism of the earlier proposals had been voiced in the Council.

A message from Harold E. Stassen, Republican Presidential aspirant, to the American Association for the United Nations, released here today, commended the organization for its advocacy of an international police force to implement partition in Palestine and thus stabilize the Middle East and safeguard "justice and peace" in the Mediterranean. Stassen's statement added that the "United States clearly ought to do its full part in both the leadership and implementation" of the U.N. Palestine Policy.

MEMBERS IN FRENCH ASSEMBLY ATTACK GOVT. FOR PALESTINE STAND; THREATEN "REPERCUSSIONS"

PARIS, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Moslem deputies in the French National Assembly this week-end attacked the French Government's support of Palestine partition and warned that it would have dangerous repercussions within the French union.

Algerian deputy M. Mezzerme, said: "Zionism is a movement artificially created for international finance. Palestine always has been Arabic and other countries better situated should agree to accept Jewish immigrants. French agreement to use force in Palestine would be an act hostile to the Arab world."

He emphasized the solidarity of the Algerian Arabs with the Arabs in Palestine and added that Algerians "cannot countenance arbitrary decisions which line up the Arabs against Jews in bloody conflict." The French Government, he said, favors increased Jewish immigration into Palestine and France is becoming a Zionist bridge-head.

Another deputy, A.I. Bentounes, declared that France had erred in favoring partition and added that "this action would have dangerous repercussions within the French Union as it had aroused anger throughout the Arab world."

400 JEWISH REFUGEES LEAVE BRITISH ZONE OF GERMANY AS "LEGAL" IMMIGRANTS TO PALESTINE

LONDON, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- A transport of Jewish refugees, consisting of 405 persons, this week-end left Belsen, in the British zone of Germany, on its way to Palestine. This is one of the largest groups of "legal" immigrants to leave for Palestine from the British zone.

AUSTRIAN VICE-CHANCELLOR CALLS VIENNA JEWISH LEADERSHIP UNDEMOCRATIC AT ELECTION RALLY

VIENNA, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- The present leadership of the Jewish community in Vienna does not fulfill its duties to Austria and is undemocratic, Vice-Chancellor Adolf Schaerf today told a Jewish mass meeting called in connection with the forthcoming elections within the Jewish community in Vienna. He urged them to vote for the Socialist candidates in the coming election.

Schaerf asserted that 26,000 apartments, among them a considerable number of which had formerly belonged to Jews, have since the liberation, been inhabited by persons receiving Russian support. He added, in answer to a question, that restitution of Jewish property had been delayed, but indicated that the Austrian Government was helpless against the Russians who claim all aryanized property in Austria and German assets.

AUSTRIAN MEDICAL COMMISSION CLEARS DOCTOR OF CHARGES OF EXPERIMENTING ON JEWISH CHILDREN

VIENNA, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- An investigating commission of the Vienna University's Medical Department this week-end acquitted Dr. J. Zikowsky, head of the infectious diseases department of its hospital of charges of performing unnecessary medical experiments on twenty Jewish refugee children last September.

Zikowsky was found not guilty because the incisions and lumbar punctures, which Jewish physicians had called unnecessary, were "entirely in accordance with medical regulations," the commission's statement said. The police then said they found no reason for further investigation.

SLOVAK COURT DOOMS GESTAPO LEADER RESPONSIBLE FOR DEPORTATION OF THOUSANDS OF JEWS

BRATISLAVA, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Ditar von Wisliczeny, Gestapo liaison agent with the puppet pro-Nazi Slovak Government, was last night sentenced by a Slovak court to be hanged for his responsibility in the deportation of thousands of Jews to German death camps.

Earlier, the court heard testimony to the effect that Wisliczeny had promised many Jews their freedom from deportation if they would pay him a huge bribe. The Slovak Jews, by that time already impoverished by the Nazis and local fascists who had confiscated or fined them most of their worldly goods, managed to raise the equivalent of \$50,000 in cash and turned it over to the Gestapo leader. Witnesses testified, however, that despite the payment of the bribe, the defendant was responsible for the deportation of the very Jews whom he had promised to protect.

DISPLACED JEWS IN U.S. ZONE OF GERMANY VOTE FOR CENTRAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

MUNICH, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Approximately 100,000 Jews in 200 DP camps and communities in the American zone went to the polls today to vote for representatives to the Central Committee. The election, by secret ballot, was held in all Jewish installations, including hospitals and sanatoria.

A proportional representation method of voting was used, with the voters expressing their choice of Zionist or non-Zionist parties. First choices gained by each party will determine the party's representation at a general congress called for the end of March where officers for the Central Committee will be elected. Final returns will not be determined for several days because of poor communications throughout the zone.

JEWISH CHILD DIES, FOUR OTHERS STRICKEN IN INFANTILE PARALYSIS OUTBREAK IN DP CAMP

FRANKFURT, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- An outbreak of infantile paralysis in the Fritzlar DP camp, north of Frankfurt, caused the death of one child today. Four others are in a serious condition, it was reported. The U.S. Army placed the camp out of bounds while doctors and health agencies were working overtime to save the stricken children.

A group of recently-arrived Rumanian Jewish refugees who were moved from two Jewish DP camps to the Augsburg refugee center by U.S. military police are living under squalid conditions, it was learned here today. The 100 Jews, including infants and children, are receiving meager German rations and have practically no fuel.

Dr. Philip Auerbach, Bavarian Commissioner for Persecutees is believed to be preparing to grant the refugees 2,000-calory rations, which are reserved for German workers engaged in heavy industry. The American Military Government, however, acting on Auerbach's orders countermanded the Ministry and insisted that the Jews live on regular German refugee rations - 1,350 calories. A visitor to the camp said today the refugees are hungry and are anxiously awaiting a shipment of J.D.C. supplementary supplies.

The Jews, who have been in the camp for three days, are living in partitioned barracks accommodating between 20 and 25 persons. They expressed bitterness over the methods used by the U.S. military officials who rounded them up and "forced them to wait for three hours in freezing temperatures for open trucks which brought them to the Augsburg barracks," which they said were "cold, unprepared and extremely dirty." Many of the Jews said openly they would not remain in the camp but would leave as soon as possible.

AGUDAS ISRAEL OPENS EUROPEAN CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS PALESTINE AND WORLD PARLEY

LONDON, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- A three-day meeting of the European Council of Agudas Israel opened here tonight to discuss the crucial Palestine situation and organizational matters, including the forthcoming Agudist World Congress.

H.L. Goodman, political secretary of the Agudah, will outline the Palestine situation at tomorrow's session. The council will also hear reports of delegates from Switzerland, France, Holland and Hungary.

2,000 AT LABOR PALESTINE COMMITTEE MEETING URGE U.S. TO RESUME LEAD ON PALESTINE AT U.N.

NEW YORK, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Expressing regret that President Truman "should now lead in a retreat" from the U.N. decision to partition Palestine, some 2,000 representatives of Zionist, labor, fraternal and civic organizations today adopted a resolution urging the U.S. Government to resume its leadership at the U.N. on the Palestine issue and help implement partition.

Meeting in an emergency session of the National Committee for Labor Palestine, the delegates rejected the U.S. proposal at the Security Council to form a Big Five Committee to further investigate the present situation in Palestine and determine whether it threatened world peace. Messages of support from Philip Murray, C.I.O. president, and A.F.L. head William Green were read and Congressman Jacob Javits of New York spoke.

PROBLEMS OF JEWISH LIBERAL CONGREGATIONS DISCUSSED AT MEETING IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Three panel discussions on the problems of small, medium and large size liberal Jewish congregations were held here today at the Hotel Pennsylvania under the sponsorship of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The conference opened last night with more than 100 presidents and vice-presidents attending the Eastern Presidents Conference.

2,000 JEWISH REFUGEES STREAM INTO FRANCE MONTHLY FROM DP AREAS, J.D.C. REPORTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Approximately 2,000 Jewish refugees are entering France monthly and pose "vast new problems" to Joint Distribution Committee assistance efforts, it was reported today by Laura Margolis, J.D.C. Director for France, who has just returned to the United States.

"The refugees enter France from Eastern Europe and the DP areas, dependent on J.D.C. for basic necessities -- food, clothing, and medicines," Miss Margolis declared. "J.D.C. provides all of this, and also maintains a chain of 18 hotels to shelter the newcomers." As a result, she said, one-third of all J.D.C. appropriations in France are going to this refugee group.

According to the J.D.C. official, most of the newcomers will be unable to emigrate from France within the near future and need continued large-scale assistance until they can become self-supporting. She disclosed that the refugees enter under the guarantee of the J.D.C. that they will not become public charges.

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE ERECTS PLANT IN PALESTINE TO DESALT WATER FOR DRINKING PURPOSES

NEW YORK, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- One of Palestine's greatest problems, the procurement of water suitable for drinking and irrigation purposes, is now in the process of solution, according to an announcement today by the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science. Despite the present situation in the country, scientists of the Institute continue to devote themselves to the long-range problems of Palestine of which the water problem is a vital part, the announcement said.

A pilot plant has been erected on the grounds of the Weizmann Institute for the purpose of desalting brackish waters, rendering them suitable for drinking and household use. The solution of the water problem in Palestine is of great importance for effective colonization and will open up new prospects of development in many parts of Palestine, including the Negev. Moreover, the establishment of water-desalination units in already existing colonies will render them practically self-sufficient with regard to drinking water, dispensing with the pipeline and tank truck forms of transporting water, which are now vulnerable to attack.

JEWISH STATE WOULD BUY \$70,000,000 WORTH OF U.S. GOODS ANNUALLY, U.P.A. REPORT ESTIMATES

NEW YORK, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- The formation of a Chamber of Commerce in the U.S. for Palestine is urged in a report published by the United Palestine Appeal today, establishing that "Jewish Palestine and the United States can form a reciprocal trade partnership in which the Jewish state would purchase at least \$50,000,000 to \$70,000,000 annually of American goods."

The report, prepared by Dr. Werner Feilchenfeld, president of the Export Union of Palestine, surveys Palestine's role in world trade and evaluates the part the new Jewish state will play in its foreign relations particularly with the U.S. The report says that there is a "vast potential for close economic ties between the two countries for the mutual benefit of both the U.S. and Palestine."

NEGEV IS VIRTUAL BASTION AGAINST ARAB ATTACK, PALESTINE ENGINEER SAYS

NEW YORK, Feb. 29. (JTA) -- Jewish defense works in the Negev have reached such a stage that the area has become a virtual bastion against Arab attack, David Baohen, a Palestine construction engineer who has just arrived here, declared today. He will tour the country on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal, he said.