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## POWER TALKS ON PALESTINE OPEN; U.S. DELEGATE URGES ARAB-JEWISH CONCILIATION

NEW YORK, Mar. 8. (JTA) -- A suggestion that all possible attempts should be made to bring about Arab-Jewish conciliation in Palestine was made today by Warren R. Austin, head of the U.S. delegation at the United Nations, at the opening meeting of the Big Powers ten-day conference on Palestine. The American representative emphasized that it might be advisable to invite the Jewish Agency and the Palestine Arab Executive Committee to confer with the Big Powers.

The meeting agreed to give immediate consideration to the question of establishing a militia in Palestine. It also decided to discuss establishment of a routine offering guidance to the U.N. Palestine Commission in relation to Provisional Councils of Government which must be formed in Palestine by Jews and Arabs separately under the provisions of the General Assembly partition decision.

The major subject on the agenda remains the question of deciding whether the present state of affairs in Palestine presents a threat to peace. At today's session it was decided to invite Britain to participate in the parley, despite the announcement made by the British representative at the Security Council that his government will not take any part in the talks. It was also decided to invite U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie to attend the parley.

The meeting will be resumed tomorrow evening. Participating in today's talks were: Warren R. Austin for the United States; Andrei Gromyko for the USSR; Alexandre Parodi for France; and T.F. Tsiang for China. In a statement to the press which was issued at the conclusion of today's discussions, it was emphasized that today's session was of an exploratory nature and was devoted chiefly to mapping out an agenda. All participants agreed on the need for speed in the deliberations, it was revealed.

### Britain Is Invited to Appear at the Deliberations as Mandatory Power

LAKE SUCCESS, Mar. 8. (JTA) -- Sen. Warren R. Austin, head of the American delegation at the United Nations, today extended an invitation to Britain on behalf of the Big Powers, to attend tomorrow's meeting on Palestine.

The invitation was extended following today's first meeting on Palestine of representatives of the United States, USSR, France and China who met in accordance with the decision of the U.N. Security Council last week. The British delegation is expected to accept the invitation.

Sen. Austin made it clear that the British Government was invited not as a member of the Big Five, but as the Mandatory Power. He refused to comment on the possibility of whether Britain would be asked to take a permanent seat in the future deliberations.

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JEWISH AGENCY NAMES 13-MEMBER CABINET; FORMS PROVISIONAL GOVT. COUNCIL FOR JEWISH STATE

JERUSALEM, Mar. 8. (JTA) -- A 31-member Provisional Council of Government and Cabinet of 13 for the new Jewish state was named here late last night as a meeting of the Jewish Agency following protracted negotiations among the various parties and political groupings in the Jewish community. The names of members of the Cabinet and the Council were immediately cabled to the U.N. Palestine Commission at Lake Success.

Heading the Cabinet as Premier is David Ben Gurion, chairman of the Agency Executive. Other members and their portfolios are: Moshe Shertok, Foreign Affairs; Mezer Kaplan, Finance; David Remez, Interior; Itzhak Gruenbaum, Labor; Fritz Grunstein, Trade; Rabbi Judah L. Fishman, Education and Religion; Moshe Shapiro, Immigration; and Itche Meir Levin, Health. The remaining four ministries were assigned--one to the General Zionists, two to the United Labor Party, one to the Sephardic community--but the names of the candidates was not made public pending final acceptance by the parties and individuals concerned.

Of the 31 seats on the Council, ten were assigned to the Palestine Labor Party, three to the Mizrahi Organization, two to the Mizrahi Laborites, four to the General Zionists, two to the United Labor Party, two to the Revisionists, and one each to the Haganah, the Yemenite community, the Sephardic community, the Agudas Israel, the Agudah laborites and the Communists. Rabbi Meir Berlin and Helena Kagan will represent the Jewish National Council on the Provisional Council of Government.

The Revisionists, who originally refused to enter the provisional government, changed their position after it was learned that the Haganah had succeeded in reaching an agreement with the dissident elements. The agreement is scheduled to be ratified at a meeting of the Agency executive tomorrow, at which time the Revisionists will also press for greater representation for their party on both the Cabinet and the Council.

Following announcement of the formation of the Provisional Jewish Government, High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham today summoned Ben Gurion to confer with him at Government House. Although the exact nature of their conversation was not made public, it is reported that they discussed the present political and security situation in the country.

UNITY REPORTED ACHIEVED BETWEEN HAGANAH AND DISSIDENT GROUP IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Mar. 8. (JTA) -- "Full agreement" on united action against the draft by the Haganah and the Irgun was reported to have been reached here last night following prolonged negotiations. The long-sought Jewish united front was brought about as a result of the formation of the Jewish Provisional Council of Government in which all groups in the Jewish community are represented.

The Haganah has begun a campaign of "sanctions" against all persons who did not register for military or industrial service in the "draft" carried out recently by Jewish national institutions. Haganah military police, wearing identifying armbands, entered all public places and asked to see registration cards. Persons who did not have their cards were warned not to appear in public. Even American citizens, with the exception of students, have not been exempted from the work-fight conscription.

(In Washington the State Department said that no report has been received from the U.S. Consul in Jerusalem that the Haganah is forcing American citizens in Palestine to register for conscription. Therefore, a spokesman said, the Department prefers not to comment until it receives official information from the Consulate.)

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PALESTINE ARABS REFUSE U.S. CONSUL GENERAL'S REQUEST THEY COOPERATE WITH U.N. COMMISSION

JERUSALEM, Mar. 8. (JTA) -- American Consul General Robert Macatee today visited the Jerusalem headquarters of the Palestine Arab Higher Committee to ask the Arab leaders to cooperate with the U.N. Palestine Commission. The Arab answer was a curt, flat "no."

A formal truce between the members of the Arab village of Biradas and the Jewish settlement of Magdiel, about 15 miles north of Tel Aviv, was signed today. The Arab villagers this afternoon drove out the remnants of a guerrilla band, 30 of whose members were killed when the Haganah blasted four houses in the village last week after the band had attacked Magdiel daily for over a week. After the truce was signed in "neutral territory" - Herzlia - agricultural workers left Magdiel to labor in the adjoining fields.

The six members of the United Nations Palestine Commission advance party which arrived in Palestine a week ago are still "virtual prisoners" of the Palestine Government which has quartered them in Security Zone B of this city. Thus far the group has been unable to establish contact with any Jewish, Arab or official agency.

The party, which is not permitted to leave the security enclosure, is housed in the basement of a two-story building, the top floor of which is occupied by British troops. The building is unheated, and the male members of the party have been wearing their bathrobes throughout the day to keep warm, while the two women are bundled in sweaters and wear heavy slacks. The women busy themselves preparing meals and cleaning house, assisted by the men, since the party is without servants. The Arabs have refused to serve them while the Jews are forbidden to enter the zone.

The Haganah radio last night charged that some 200 British soldiers and police have deserted to the Arabs and are stationed near Ramallah where they are instructing Arab recruits in the handling of weapons, including land mines, bombs and mortars. Other Britons are being held in readiness for use as shock troops, the announcer said. Palestine Government spokesman immediately denied the charges.

U.S. Asked to Protect Hadassah Hospital as American Institution

New attacks on traffic between the Hadassah Hospital on Mt. Scopus and the Jewish areas of Jerusalem occurred late last night. One Jewish armored car was mined and burned out and the driver was killed, while medical personnel stranded by the attack and the blowing up of a bridge from the heights to the city waited for another armored car to fight its way through to them and transport them to the city.

This morning leaders of the Hadassah organization in Jerusalem cabled to Hadassah in New York asking that it urge the State Department to take "real action" to protect the hospital, which they pointed out is an American institution, and continue to be in service. The cable gave details of last night's battle and said that it was urging the hospital to suspend transfer of supplies as well as sick and wounded patients.

A strong Haganah detachment made a sortie into the Arab stronghold of Bet Dejan and demolished several houses, killing a number of guerrillas, while an Irgun unit penetrated the village of Qagun and blew up four buildings. An official communique says that five Arabs were killed yesterday when a bus in which they were travelling near Gaza was fired on by a passing Jewish convoy. Eight Jewish political prisoners escaped Friday from the Athlit detention camp where some 500 men are imprisoned, a government announcement stated today.

Three British soldiers were today sentenced to four years imprisonment each after a military court had convicted them of selling arms to the Arabs. British military authorities denied their own previous reports that a Jewish plane was fired on in the Jaffa area. They declared that no planes except a scout aircraft had operated in that zone and that it had not been fired on.

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ISH ACTIONS COMMITTEE LEADERS IN PRAGUE ATTACK ZIONISTS; QUESTION THEIR LOYALTY

PRAGUE, Mar. 8. (JTA) -- Bitter attacks against Zionist members of the Prague Jewish Community were made by Jewish Communist speakers here at the first meeting held by the Actions Committee of the Council of Jewish Communities of Bohemia-Moravia and of the Prague Community. The Actions Committee was formed last week following the change in the Czechoslovak Government.

One of the Communist speakers objected to the fact that Vestnik, the official organ of the Council of the Jewish Communities, was being edited "in a Zionist spirit." Another speaker--a Communist official in the social department of the Prague Jewish Community--impugned the loyalty of Zionists as citizens.

Frantisek Fuchs, Social Democratic vice-chairman of the Council, who is a member of the Actions Committee, told the audience that it is necessary for Jews to form "parties of progress," emphasizing that reaction and anti-Semitism always go hand-in-hand. The ouster of Kurt Premysl Heller, a former Communist, from the board of the Prague Jewish Community, was demanded by some of the speakers. Heller was recently expelled from the Communist Party.

A representative of the Trade Union Council urged the staff members of the Council and of the Jewish Community to join the ranks of organized labor. He warned that otherwise they would be exposed to dismissal. Among those attending the meeting were guests were Arnost Frischer, chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities, and El Stein, chairman of the Prague Jewish Community.

The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee of Moscow has addressed a communication to the Council here asking for reports on Jewish community activities in Czechoslovakia and copies of Jewish periodicals published in this country.

IS IN BRITISH ZONE PERMITTED BY GERMANS TO DROP FIRST NAMES FORCED ON THEM BY NAZIS

MUNICH, Mar 8. (JTA) -- Jews resident in the British zone of Germany have been granted permission by the Central German Advisory Council to drop the Nazi-imposed first names of "Israel" and "Sarah," it was announced here today. Jews in the U.S. were allowed to dispense with the names last year.

Nearly 4,000 posters reading "Anti-Semitism Means Ignorance and Barbarism" have been posted in towns and villages throughout the province of Hesse. The placards warn that dissemination of Nazi-like or militaristic propaganda will hamper the creation of a peaceful German state and that offenders are liable to prosecution under existing legislation.

More than 4,000,000 German marks worth of household goods have been distributed to the approximately 10,000 victims of Nazi persecution in the province of Wurttemberg-Baden in the U.S. zone, an announcement by the provincial Ministry of Justice was made today. The announcement added that furnishings and clothing confiscated from the victims will be distributed to the refugees shortly.

The newly-formed United Socialist-Labor Bloc received the largest percentage of votes in last week's voting for electors who will name the new members of the Jewish Central Committee in the U.S. zone.

The new bloc received a little more than 30 percent of the vote, while the Revisionists received 21 percent; Mapai, 19 percent; General Zionists, Agudas Israel, and Mizrahi, about 10 percent each. Compared with last year's balloting, the left-wing faction gained the greatest number of votes while the Revisionists lost slightly.

STATE DEPT. ADMITS "ADVISING" U.S. STEEL COMPANY NOT TO SEND STEEL PLATE TO PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, Mar. 8. (JTA) -- The State Department today admitted that it had "advised" the U.S. Steel Corporation against taking an order for 500 tons of steel plate for shipment to Palestine. The order was placed by the Palestine Electric Corporation which needed the plates for its trucks and field equipment.

A spokesman for the Department told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that U.S. Steel informally inquired of the State Department whether the plate would be subject to an export ban. The Department, he said, unofficially advised U.S. Steel that the contemplated plate shipment came under the ban of December 5 on the shipment of arms and munitions to the Middle East, inasmuch as it is armor and not ordinary steel plates.

BRITAIN REJECTS U.N. PROPOSAL FOR "PRELIMINARY STEPS" TO ORGANIZE MILITIA IN PALESTINE

LAKE SUCCESS, Mar. 8. (JTA) -- The U.N. Palestine Commission today received a flat refusal from the British Government that it permit "preliminary steps" for setting up an armed militia before the Mandate's termination. The British also rejected a request from the Commission for stockpiling of military arms and equipment under seal for use after the Mandate expires.

The British reply on militia came in response to a request from the Commission for immediate allocation of cantonment areas, recruiting and training of militia and organization of cadres. The British suggested all this could be done in the two weeks prior to May 15.

The Commission today sent a letter to the British Government requesting the Mandate to stockpile food up to July 31 from imports to be charged against the trading account of the Palestine Government. The draft instructions were prepared by a committee composed of representatives of the United Kingdom and Belgium. They cover the following matters: Duties and power of the Governor; the Council of Administration; the Legislative Council and legislation; public officers and initial organizational matters.

In the course of this morning's discussion, Roger Garreau of France insisted on the appointment of a Governor of Jerusalem as soon as possible to enable him to prepare himself for the implementation of the draft statute. It was generally understood that the instructions to the Governor should come into force simultaneously with the draft statute for Jerusalem to which they are a corollary.

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE TO DRAFT CONVENTION OUTLAWING GENOCIDE TO BEGIN WORK IN APRIL

LAKE SUCCESS, Mar. 8. (JTA) -- A U.N. committee appointed by the Economic and Social Council to draft an international convention outlawing genocide will begin its work here April 15, it was announced today. The draft will be forwarded to the Council which after consideration, will send it to the next session of the General Assembly for final action.

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION LIQUIDATES OFFICE IN WASHINGTON; MOVES TO PARIS

WASHINGTON, Mar. 8. (JTA) -- The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation today announced the immediate transfer of its headquarters from Washington to Paris "pending the liberation of territory in Palestine where permanent Committee headquarters will be established."

U.S. SUPREME COURT RULES AGAINST USING PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

WASHINGTON, Mar. 8. (JTA) -- The Supreme Court today decided, eight to one, that use of public school time and public school property for religious instruction by an inter-faith religious council is unconstitutional, notwithstanding the fact that acceptance of the instruction is voluntary.

The ruling, with Justice Stanley F. Reed dissenting, was made in the case of Mrs. Vashti McCollum, wife of a college professor in Champaign, Illinois, who said she was an atheist, and who contended that the system of religious teaching ineffect in Champaign schools, though voluntary, caused embarrassment to her 12-year-old son because he alone in his school room did not take the instruction.

Religious instruction in this case is furnished by a Protestant-Catholic-Jewish council which provides the teachers and pays their salaries. The court ruled that this system violates the principle of separation of church and state. The representative of the Jewish faith dropped out of the council and classes in the Jewish religion were stopped in the last few years because of the very small number of Jewish pupils in Champaign.

Justice Hugo L. Black wrote the majority opinion, based on a case decided by the Court last year, which upheld the grant of tax funds to buses for parochial schools. In this decision it was declared that the state not only cannot aid any religion but cannot aid all religions.

Justice Felix Frankfurter wrote a separate, but concurring opinion, somewhat more vigorous in its assertion of the principle of separation of church and state, and was joined by the three justices who, with him, dissented in the bus case. They argued that in the McCollum case a minority was subjected to indirect compulsion through the pressure of conformity.

"Separation means separation, not something else," said Justice Frankfurter. Declaring it is the "Court's duty to enforce" the American principle of separation "in its full integrity," the opinion stated that "the public school is at once the symbol of our democracy and the most pervasive means for promoting our common destiny. In no activity of the state is it more vital to keep out divisive forces than in its schools, to avoid confusing, not to say fusing, what the constitution sought to keep strictly apart."

Justice Reed argued that the issue did not involve establishment of a religion, but was merely another evidence of the presence of religion in many American institutions, such as chaplains in the Army. So long as no discrimination is practised, he said, the instruction is not unconstitutional.

TWO HEBREW UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS ARRIVE IN U.S. TO AID IN CAMPAIGN FOR \$1,000,000

NEW YORK, Mar. 8. (JTA) -- Drs. Leo A. Mayer and Michael Even-Ari, faculty members of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, arrived here today from Palestine to aid in the current \$1,100,000 campaign now being conducted by the American Friends of the Hebrew University.

Dr. Even-Ari, head of the University's Botany Department, declared that the morale of the Jews in Palestine is "very high." He said that members of the University's faculty and student body alternate between their work and guard duty on Mt. Scopus, where a large supply of foodstuffs has been prepared in case of emergency.