VOL. XV No. 59 (30th year) 58

Wednesday, March 10, 1948

JTA Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

LAST MINUTE NEWS

## BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE VAGUE ON PALESTINE SECURITY SITUATION IN BIG FOUR PARLEY

LAKE SUCCESS, Mar. 9. (JTA) -- The Big Four powers today questioned British representative Sir Alexander Cadogan in an effort to determine whether Palestine faces an immediate or future threat to the peace.

Sir Alexander was unprepared to answer most of the questions, pending more information from London. However, his replies indicated that Britain was very hazy about the general security of Palestine either now or after termination of the Mandate. His replies to several scores of questions established the following points:

The British admit three invasions whose forces or arms they could not identify, but deny that there is an Arab army in Palestine. British troops will not be responsible for law and order after May 15, except to protect lines of evacuation. Britain could not say what the security situation will be in Palestine after May 15, but Sir Alexander told the Big Four to expect real fighting.

He also added that the British could not be sure of unfreezing Tel Aviv or any other port even after May 15. The British expect the Jewish Agency to remove all immigrants from Cyprus between May 15 and August 1, he stated.

After tonight's meeting of the Big Four representatives, Sen. Warren Austin issued a statement expressing regret over the statement this morning of a "high Soviet official"--later identified as Andrei Gromyko--reiterating Soviet support of partition and expressing the opinion that the U.S. was attempting to reopen the Palestine issue. Austin added that "we shall judge the issue when the consultations are completed."

Earlier, an American spokesman at Lake Success today admitted that the United States was pushing a "conciliation" plan to solve the Palestine issue and had sent notes to the Arab capitals and the Palestine Arab Higher Committee urging them to send representatives to the Big Four consultations and the Security Council.

The release of a U.N. working paper describing the Palestine Commission as having full power to implement partition without the authority of the Security Council caused a minor furor at the Council meeting this afternoon which was devoted to the question of Trieste.

Argentina's delegate, Jose Arce, described it as the product of "an unbalanced mind," and demanded an explanation from Secretary-General Trygve Lie. Austin defended the Secretariat but expressed "serious reservations on the substance of the document." Gromyko thought the document building up the powers of the commission against those of the Council "very interesting" and the whole discussion unworthy of the Council.

VOL. XV No. 50 (30th year)

Wednesday, March 10, 1948

JTA Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

## PALESTINE COMMISSION CAN IMPLEMENT PARTITION WITHOUT SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVAL

LAKE SUCCESS, Mar. 9. (JTA) -- U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie today released the text of a working paper prepared by the Secretariat for the Palestine Commission declaring that the Commission has full power to implement the General Assembly's decision without the approval of the Security Council.

In a cover letter to Dr. T.F. Tsiang, president of the Council, Lie points out that the paper, entitled "Relations Between the United Nations Commission and the Security Council," was prepared in compliance with a specific request for such a paper while Lie was abroad. He added that the document has been distributed to members of the Commission. Observers here believe that the paper was partly formulated by members of the Commission and has the approval of the entire body.

The legal analysis, which amounts to a declaration of the Commission's rights, asserts that the "primary responsibility" for partition rests with the Commission and that the Council's powers are those of "guidance." While the Commission may ask guidance of the Council, it does not need its authorization for action, the paper points out.

It specifically denies the Council's right to alter the Assembly partition decision - a point of particular importance at this time when the Big Four are meeting on Palestine and open attempts at "conciliation" at the expense of partition have been made.

The Commission's working paper warned bluntly that "it is anticipated that an attempt will then be made to reopen the whole question of Palestine." In a further analysis of the Council's powers, the document asserts that the Council has all the necessary powers to assume responsibility for the security situation in Palestine - not only in the event of a threat from without but also against threats from within.

## Commission Will Ask $30,000,000 Loan for Jewish Government

Meanwhile, Eduardo Morgan, Panamanian member of the Commission, today revealed that the Commission is preparing an application to the Import-Export Bank for a $30,000,000 loan to finance the Jewish Provisional Government's first steps toward full independence.

(In Washington the Bank confirmed that informal discussions have been held on the question of credit for the Jewish Government, but that no formal application has been received. An official of the Bank pointed out that the loan would be contingent upon the legal status of the Jewish body, since the Bank may not lend to non-governmental bodies.)

The third and final reading of the draft statute for the international city of Jerusalem is scheduled to take place at a meeting of the Trusteeship Council tomorrow afternoon. At least one more point must be discussed before final approval: a communication from the Jewish Agency containing suggestions for changes of the election procedure and composition of the city's legislative council.

## BRITISH THREATEN RETURN OF TROOPS TO TEL AVIV IF DISSIDENTS ARE NOT SUPPRESSED

JERUSALEM, Mar. 9. (JTA) -- A threat that British troops may be brought back into Tel Aviv if the Jewish Agency does not suppress the dissident elements was made by High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham to Agency chairman David Ben Gurion at their interview yesterday, it was unofficially reported here today in Jewish circles. An Agency spokesman, commenting on the parley, merely said that a wide range of political and security questions were discussed.

The first crisis in the Provisional Council of Government of the Jewish state appeared to be developing today when it was learned that the United Labor Party, recently formed by a merger of the left-wing Hashomer Hatzair and the L'Achduth Avoda, has demanded greater representation on the Council and the Cabinet on the basis of its strength in the last national elections. The party has been assigned three members on the Council, but is demanding three portfolios in the Cabinet and five members in the Council.

An Agency spokesman, revealing the party composition of the Council and Cabinet at a press conference, stated that the actual number of Cabinet members has not been decided and may be 11, 12 or 13. He disclosed that the 32-man council will include 12 members of the Agency resident in Palestine, 14 members of the Jewish National Council, two Agudists, two Revisionists, one Communist and one representative of the Sephardic community.

While the Agency prepared to meet either late today or tomorrow to ratify the alliance between the Haganah and the Irgun, it was learned that the agreement reached between the two military groups was not a merger but a program for coordination of activities. The two groups are to remain independent, but the Haganah will hold supreme command and the Irgun has agreed to halt its attacks on the British.

There was a burst of activity on the Tel Aviv-Jaffa front today with Arabs and Jews exchanging heavy machine gun and mortar fire. Earlier, at dawn, a section of track of the rail line between the two cities was blown up by the Haganah and one of the major road entrances to the Jewish city was blasted in an attempt to keep marauding Arab bands and British armored cars and troops out.

A Jewish bus was abandoned by its driver and passengers several miles south of Jerusalem when it was attacked by mine, incendiary bomb and small arms fire. Later, the slightly damaged vehicle was stolen by the Arabs. It was reported that the Arabs have stolen 15 government vehicles, including two armored police cars, within the last 36 hours. Meanwhile, two Jewish armored cars have been confiscated by the police.

## BRITISH LABOR M.P.'S DEBATE PARTY'S STAND ON PALESTINE ISSUE IN CLOSED MEETING

LONDON, Mar. 9. (JTA) -- Introduction of a second amendment to the government bill calling for termination of the Palestine Mandate which is due to receive its second reading in Commons tomorrow was understood to have forced leaders of the Labor Party to call a closed meeting of the Labor M.P.'s today rather than tomorrow as originally scheduled.

While "welcoming" the government's decision to terminate the Palestine Mandate and withdraw its troops from the country, the motion "declines to give a second reading to the bill while the government pursues a policy in respect of Palestine which undermines the authority of the United Nations." It was offered to force a full-fledged debate on the Palestine issue, because the Speaker may disregard one amendment to a bill, but must call for a floor discussion of bills to which two or more amendments have been offered. It was also reported after today's secret debate, the Labor Party will demand that every member vote as the party caucus votes or give up his status as a member of the party.

## S. CONSUL IN JERUSALEM PROTESTS TO JEWISH AGENCY OVER SEIZURE OF AMERICAN'S PAPERS

WASHINGTON, Mar. 9. (JTA) -- The American Consul in Jerusalem has reported to State Department that he made oral protests to the Jewish Agency regarding alged interference with American citizens in Palestine and asked that it be stopped, was learned here today. The consul's report, according to a State Department okesman, characterized the interference as an attempted seizure of documents from American citizen. There were no further details immediately available.

Meanwhile, Rep. A. Somers of New York today introduced a resolution in the House amend the Nationality Act of 1940 to preserve the citizenship status of American tizens serving as members of armed forces or organizations established to maintain ace in Palestine. The resolution provides that no citizen of the United States all lose his citizenship if he becomes a member of any "armed force made available the Security Council of the United Nations."

Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon told the Senate that the U.S. Government, "under ounds of legal sophistry, has confirmed the fears of many of us that the State Dertment lacks the will to have our government do its part to make the Palestine setement work."

He expressed confidence that the Haganah can maintain peace in Palestine "if we ll support it with but a fraction of the energy with which we are supporting the eeks." With proper equipment and direction, Morse contended, the Haganah would ld "only a minimum of outside help even if the Arab states should continue to use rce in violation of the U.N. Charter." He pointed out that "we treat the Jewish ency as an outcast while our dilatory and confused policy encourages the Arab tes to violence."

Rep. Ed Gossett of Texas, speaking in the House, attacked the American position the General Assembly regarding Palestine as "wholly untenable," declaring that inety-five percent of the Congress and of the American people....are ready to admit t we have made a terrible mistake." Asserting that the Arab case was unknown, sett inserted in the Congressional Record an address last week by Faris El Khouri, rian delegate to the Security Council, against partition.

Charging that the "delaying tactics" of the American Government were contributng almost as much to the chaotic situation in Palestine as the "crime of commisn" of the British Government, Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish ngress, tonight told a local Congress meeting here that the authority of the United tions is being undermined by these tactics.

## S. TROOPS, AUSTRIAN POLICE ARREST 300 JEWS IN BLACK MARKET RAID; ONLY TWO HELD

VIENNA, Mar. 9. (JTA) -- American military and Austrian civil police arrested re 300 Jews, including 50 women, in a raid in front of the Rothschild Hospital here ich has been used as a shelter for Jewish infiltrees from Rumania, it was reported day. All but two, who were held for trial by a military government court, were leased.

The raid, intended to discourage black market activities, netted some $200 in erican currency, more than $300 in British money and some Austrian sugar ration pons. Jewish leaders, pointing out that much of the seized funds were legally quired by the refugees, proposed that an official banking system be established permit the Jews to deposit legally acquired foreign currency and be assured that would be returned to them prior to their leaving the country.

BILL TO ADMIT 400,000 DP'S TO U.S. IN NEXT FOUR YEARS TO BE INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

WASHINGTON, Mar. 9. (JTA) -- A bill to admit 400,000 displaced persons from Europe to the United States within the next four years will be introduced in the House this week, it was learned here today. The proposal--which was drafted by Rep. James G. Fulton, of Pennsylvania--was described as an alternative to the bill reported out of committee to the Senate last week which calls for the admission of 100,000 DP's over a two-year period.

The Fulton Bill will be supported by Rep. Jacob K. Javits, of New York, as well as by a number of other Congressmen. It contains certain features designed to appease opponents of the original Stratton Bill, which also called for the admission of 400,000 DP's in four years.

ZIONIST LEADER APPEALS TO SOUTH AFRICA TO HELP IMPLEMENT U.N. PARTITION DECISION

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Mar. 9. (JTA) -- An appeal to the Union of South Africa to help implement the U.N. General Assembly's Palestine partition decision was made today by Bernard Gering, chairman of the local Zionist Federation here, at a news conference. At the same time he appealed to Britain to abandon its present hostile policy in Palestine and "return to the spirit of the Balfour Declaration."

Describing the policy of the Palestine Government as tantamount to encouraging Arab attacks, Gering said that "it is the duty of South Africa and other member states of the United Nations to uphold the U.N. decision. I appeal to Britain not to pursue Bevin's policy and return to its traditional policy of cooperation with the Jewish National Home."

VANDALS DESECRATE JEWISH CEMETERY IN BIALYSTOK; POLICE START INVESTIGATION

WARSAW, Mar. 9. (JTA) -- Unidentified vandals desecreted the Jewish cemetery of Bialystok last night, it was announced here by police officials who are conducting an investigation. Many tombstones were knocked over and several graves were dug up, including a mass grave of the Jews who perished in the 1905 pogrom.

The agricultural section of the Polish ORT has inaugurated a series of educational courses for Jewish farmers who have settled in the Dzierzoniow region in Lower Silesia. The courses include soil cultivation, fruit-growing, truck gardening and agricultural economics.

The ORT is also conducting courses in ichthyology, the care of nets and sailing for members of the only Jewish fishing cooperative in Poland, which is located at Stettin.

DR. LEO BAECK, FORMER LEADER OF GERMAN JEWRY, RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

PHILADELPHIA, Mar. 9. (JTA) -- Dr. Leo Baeck, president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, who has just completed a tour of Jewish communities in the United States on behalf of the American Jewish Cavalcade, has been awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Hebrew Letters by Dropsie College here.

In presenting the degree to the 75-year-old rabbi, who as leader of German Jewry during the period of Nazi domination spent more than two years in a concentration camp, Dr. Abraham A. Neuman, president of the college, described Dr. Baeck as the "symbol of the transference of Jewish culture from the grave of Germany to the living soil of our beloved United States."

THE CONTENTS OF THIS BULLETIN ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION