

VOL. XV No. 64 (30th year)

Wednesday, March 17, 1948

JTA Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

LAST MINUTE NEWS

POWER AGREEMENT ON THREAT TO PEACE IN PALESTINE COLLAPSES; FRANCE BELIEVED TO RENEGE

LAKE SUCCESS, Mar. 16. (JTA) -- Big power agreement on a declaration that the situation in Palestine constitutes an immediate threat to the peace collapsed tonight at a Big Three meeting of the United States, China and France.

The Big Three meeting took place in U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie's office at the end of the Security Council session, after Andrei Gromyko of the U.S.S.R. said he did not understand that a meeting had been called and that he could not attend. Contrary to U.N. protocol the other Big Three powers met without him in a three-quarter-hour session in which a representative of one of the Big Three powers reneged on the position he took this morning in favor of an immediate declaration that Palestine peace is in jeopardy.

This was a closed meeting but the power, it is generally believed, is France. Although the U.N. press officer who covered the meeting could not identify the various powers of the individual powers, other sources revealed that French delegate Parodi was impressed with the statement of Syria's delegate el Khouri at today's Council meeting. El Khouri said that the Arab states had not interfered and would not interfere in the Palestine fighting so long as no other outside force took part.

The Big Four will meet again tomorrow evening after the afternoon Security Council session on Czechoslovakia.

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THREE ESTABLISH THREAT TO PEACE EXISTS IN PALESTINE; SECURITY COUNCIL TO MEET FRIDAY

LAKE SUCCESS, Mar. 16. (JTA) -- The United States, the Soviet Union and France agreed that a threat to the peace exists in Palestine because of the armed invasion of Arabs from neighboring countries. The Big Three also agreed that the Security Council should ask the parties responsible for this invasion to withdraw their invading forces at once.

Full agreement of the Big Four on presenting a report to this effect to the Security Council could not be reached in the morning because China insisted on a broad condemnation to include Arabs and Jews within Palestine. Dr. T.F. Tsiang, the Chinese representative at the Big Four consultations on Palestine, argued that the findings establish that elements within Palestine are also responsible for the threat to peace there.

Since the Big Three could not accept the Chinese modification, they decided to defer their report to the Security Council which was to have been submitted today. At a brief afternoon session of the Council, U.S. delegate Warren Austin merely reported that the Big Powers require more time to reach an agreement on the result of their consultations on Palestine. The Council thereupon adjourned till Friday.

Arab Delegate Urges Council to Abrogate Partition "At All Costs"

The main speaker at today's Council session was Camille Chamoun, the Lebanese delegate, who appealed to the Council to "stop at all costs" the implementation of the General Assembly's partition decision which, he said, was "illogical, unjust, and contrary to the principles of the U.N. Charter."

He accused the Zionists of attempting to throw the United States "into a wild military adventure with all its tragic consequences." The Zionists, he continued, while appealing to the Council to hasten the formation of an international armed force to insure partition, had asked the United States for an "American expeditionary force" and the lifting of the embargo on arms shipments. Referring to U.S. "economic and commercial transactions" in the Middle East, Chamoun warned that the friendship between the U.S. and the Arab nations and "real cultural cooperation" were "completely jeopardized because Zionist pressure has driven the American Administration to follow the line it has taken."

Faris el Khouri of Syria made a brief statement to the effect that the Arab states would not interfere in any fighting in Palestine as long as there was no foreign armed force on Palestine soil.

In attendance at the Council meeting was a capacity crowd of spectators--newsmen and visitors--demonstrating once again the deep interest of the public in the future of Palestine.

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COMMISSION CHARGES BRITAIN WITH IMPEDING FORMATION OF JEWISH GOVERNMENT

LAKE SUCCESS, Mar. 16. (JTA) -- The British Government was accused today by U.N. Palestine Commission of hampering the establishment of a Jewish Provisional Council of Government in Palestine by April 1, as provided by the partition decision of the General Assembly.

In its second monthly report submitted today to the Security Council, the Palestine Commission charged that the position of the Mandatory Power "precludes any possibility" of fulfilling by April 1 that part of the partition plan which provides for establishment of Provisional Councils of Government, although some preliminary steps toward the selection of a Provisional Council for the Jewish state have been taken by the Commission.

The Commission emphasized that as a result of the British attitude, the Jewish Council "will not be able to carry out its functions" prior to the termination of the Mandate on May 15. In stressing the impossibility of establishing the Council within the prescribed time limit, the Commission leaves the problem for further action to the Security Council.

The Commission revealed that it asked the British Government to facilitate its work in establishing the Councils by April 1. The British reply said: "Subject to its overriding responsibility for the maintenance of law and order, the Mandatory Power would not impede any preliminary steps taken by the Commission with this object in view, although such Council could not exercise any authority prior to the date of the termination of the Mandate."

Establishment of Economic Union Affected by British Delaying Tactics

The impossibility of establishing the Councils by April 1 also makes it impossible to carry out the U.N. decision to establish an economic union within the prescribed schedule, since the resolution of the General Assembly requires that such an undertaking must be entered into by the Councils by April 1.

Although the U.N. resolution provides alternatively that if the Councils have not entered into an undertaking by April 1, the Commission shall put the undertaking into force, the Commission report stressed that "this is impracticable, in any case, owing to the policy of the Mandatory Power not to relinquish any authority prior to the termination of the Mandate." (Other conclusions of the Commission, emphasizing that partition is impossible unless peace is restored in Palestine, were reported in yesterday's issue of the J.T.A. Bulletin.)

Commission Considering Loan for Food Stockpiling in Palestine

The Commission is considering negotiating for an international loan to be used as a working capital fund for food stockpiling in Palestine during the period when it serves as United Nations administrator, the report disclosed. As a security pledge for the loan, the Commission would offer the future revenues of the country.

The Commission reported that a serious food shortage, especially of bread cereals, oils and fats, will develop in Palestine after the termination of the Mandate, unless effective arrangements are made for additional imports within the next few weeks. The arrangements suggested thus far are inadequate, the report emphasized. Further plans are being considered, the Commission added.

JEWISH AGENCY READY TO WELCOME TRUCE IF IT WILL NOT ENCRONCH ON JEWISH STATE

JERUSALEM, Mar. 16. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency would welcome a truce in Palestine as requested by the United States, France and China yesterday if there is "a guarantee that it will not encroach in any way on the Jewish State and will not be a device to give the Arabs time to make further preparations for war," an Agency spokesman told a press conference here today. "We did not start this fight," he said.

As soon as members of the Agency executive abroad have approved the recent Arab-Irgun agreement Jewish leaders here will initiate action toward a pact with the Stern Group, it was reliably learned today. Several of the Agency members here are urging that preparations for the negotiations be speeded up because they believe the talks will be drawn out and they hope to see an accord reached by the time a Jewish State is formally proclaimed.

Mayor Israel Rokach last night revealed that work will soon begin on enlarging the port of Tel Aviv to handle deep draft vessels. The project, which is expected to have a tremendous effect on the economic life of the Jewish State, is expected to be completed by August 1. Present plans call for dredging operations to begin in the estuary of the Yarkon River.

Following a meeting of all members of the consular corps in Jerusalem the body issued a statement expressing "shock" that the national colors of a foreign nation (the United States) were used to cover the planting of explosives in the Jewish Agency headquarters which led to the death of 13 persons, the wounding of 90 others and the loss of considerable property. The statement also protests repeated Arab breaches of consular immunity and announces that the consuls will draw the attention of their respective governments to the situation which is preventing them from discharging their normal duties.

Day Passes Quietly in Palestine; Heavy Snow Falls in Jerusalem Area

Today passed comparatively quietly with only a minor attack on Mekor Haim, outside Jerusalem, and a train robbery near Tulkarm reported. The lull in fighting was attributed in large measure to the heavy blanket of snow that covered Jerusalem and much of the surrounding country yesterday in one of the rare snow storms to occur in Palestine. The snow reached a depth of several inches in the Hebron hills, while heavy rains were reported in other parts of the country. The last snow fell here in February, 1946.

Arabs in Jerusalem today stole a press car from the Palestine Information Office, while a group of Irgunists held up the assistant district commissioner of Lydda near Tel Aviv and stole his car, but gave him a safe conduct to the Arab lines. An official announcement revealed that the TWA plane, which was fired on Saturday night, was attacked with tracer bullets over the Arab village of Yehudia, near Jaffa. The attack caused the American airline to cancel all service in and to Palestine.

A prominent Arab political leader, who recently arrived in Jerusalem, has revealed that King Abdullah of Transjordan is making large-scale preparations for an invasion of Palestine and the occupation of the Hebron and Beersheba areas immediately after the termination of the Mandate on May 15. The British-officered Arab Legion will be in the vanguard of the invading force, according to the Arab leader.

Arabs who sell food to Jews will be subject to the death penalty, according to a "decree" issued today by Arab guerrilla headquarters somewhere in northern Palestine. The "decree" states that Arabs caught dealing with Jews will be tried in special military courts and if found guilty will be summarily executed.

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JEW ACTIONS COMMITTEE ISSUES ORDER RESTRICTING SERVICES IN PRAGUE SYNAGOGUE

PRAGUE, Mar. 16. (JTA) -- The Jewish Actions Committee which has been formed to practically control the activities of the Prague Jewish Community and of the pool of Jewish Communities in Bohemia-Moravia, today ordered the Orthodox High Synagogue here to restrict its religious services to one-hour periods in the morning and evening, respectively. The synagogue is to remain closed for the remainder of the day, the order stated.

Meanwhile, dissatisfaction with the composition of the Actions Committee was expressed here at a meeting of the executive board of the Council of Jewish Communities. Charging that neither Zionists nor provincial Jewish communities can be satisfied with the present make-up of the Actions Committee, Judge S. Lansky, Hashomer Hatzair leader, pointed out that the only Zionist member on the Committee did not have the right to vote.

The discussion was precipitated following an announcement by Mrs. Laura Simkova, chairman of the Jewish Actions Committee, of the ouster of Dr. Hannus Rezek, secretary-general of the Prague Jewish Community and assistant chief rabbi of Prague, who served as a chaplain with the Czechoslovak Army in Palestine, from his posts on the boards of both the Council of Jewish Communities and the Prague Jewish Community.

Dr. Alexander Knapp, secretary-general of the Actions Committee, told the meeting that the discussion of the Committee's opposition was not the business of the board, since the Actions Committee was a "revolutionary body elected in a revolutionary manner."

Knapp said that the Zionists were not omitted intentionally from membership on the Committee. After several board members urged the Committee to reconsider its decision on Rabbi Rezek, they were informed that the decision could not be changed. The Committee assured the meeting, however, that the rights of religious Jews would be fully respected and that there would be no interference in religious affairs.

A black flag has been raised over the Jewish "Town Hall" here in memory of Jan Masaryk, long considered a friend of the Jewish people and of Palestine. At a meeting of the Council of Jewish Communities, vice-chairman Frantisek Fuchs paid tribute to the memory of the late Foreign Minister. Many Jews attended the burial services, while an official delegation of 20 participated in the official ceremonies.

POLISH COURTS IMPOSE DEATH SENTENCES ON UKRAINIAN, POLE FOR WARTIME MURDERS OF JEWS

WARSAW, Mar. 16. (JTA) -- The Wroclaw district court today sentenced Sylwester Krzanowski, a Ukrainian member of the Gestapo charged with participating in the 1941 pogrom against the Jews of Schodnica, near Borislaw, to die by hanging. The defendant served in the Gestapo from 1941 to 1943 and was active in the pro-fascist Ukrainian renegade movement.

The court in Radom today imposed a sentence of death on Stanislaw Wiktorowicz, a Pole, for the murder of four members of a Jewish family. The Pole allowed the Jews to remain hidden in his house after they succeeded in escaping from the Stawiec slave labor camp, exacting huge sums of money from them all the time they were hidden. Ten days before liberation, Wiktorowicz murdered the family and threw their bodies into a deep well.

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GROUP OF JEWISH ORPHANS IN BRITISH ZONE OF GERMANY TO LEAVE FOR PALESTINE MONDAY

BEISEN, Germany, Mar. 16. (JTA) -- A special transport of some 460 Jewish orphans will leave here for Marseilles next Monday en route to Palestine, the Joint Distribution Committee, which arranged the transport, announced last night.

This is the last group of Jewish orphans left in the British zone of Germany. Under an agreement between the British and the Jewish Agency immigration priority is being given to orphans and young children. Their certificates will be deducted from regular immigration quota.

AMBASSADOR GRANADOS SAYS ARAB TERRORISTS INFILTRATE PALESTINE WITH BRITISH CONSENT

NEW YORK, Mar. 16. (JTA) -- Dr. Jorge Garcia Granados, retiring Guatemalan ambassador and chief delegate to the United Nations, charged today that Arab bands have been permitted to enter Palestine on the condition that they delay the opening of their attacks upon the Palestine Jews until May 15th, the date when the British mandate ends. "This," he added, "is invasion by consent--and the blame for it falls on the shoulders of the British."

The Guatemalan Ambassador issued his statement at a press conference and reception given in his honor at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel by the Zionist Organization of America. Dr. Emanuel Neumann, ZOA president, presided and paid tribute to Dr. Granados.

Calling attention to the fact that he was a member of the U.N. Special Committee on Palestine and that he had signed the majority report, Dr. Granados denounced Great Britain's "policy of obstruction against the United Nations' decision to partition Palestine despite her specific promises."

The Guatemalan diplomat cited the answer of Sir Alexander Cadogan that Great Britain "as a good member of the United Nations would not obstruct partition." Dr. Granados also deplored the "lack of desire on the part of the United States and other governments to implement this United Nations' decision despite the firm position she took in the fight for it and, third, the current trend of thought which suggests that because there is now violence in Palestine, partition is impracticable and not the proper solution."

STERNIST LEADER IN U.S. NAMES TWO BRITONS RESPONSIBLE FOR LAST MONTH'S JERUSALEM BOMBING

NEW YORK, Mar. 16. (JTA) -- The names of two British Palestine police deserters charged with responsibility for the Ben Yehuda Street bombing in Jerusalem February 22, in which 54 Jews lost their lives, were today made public by "David Yardeni," self-styled head of the Stern Group in the United States. Speaking at a press conference, the Sternist leader said the two Britons were George Ross, 24, and George Anthony White, 21.

"Yardeni," who admitted that that was not his real name, said that Sternists who occupied a British police station discovered photos of British police deserters among whom were Ross and White. He said that eyewitnesses "positively identified" the two as having participated in the bombing outrage.

He also stated that Arabs in Palestine were using Moslem houses of worship as sniping posts and warned that the Sternists will not respect the sacredness of the mosques if snipers are found operating from them. "Yardeni" said he was a deputy commander in the Stern Group, and is working in the United States with the American Friends of the Fighters for the Freedom of Israel.

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