

Thursday, March 18, 1948

# TA Daily News Bulletin

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

## LAST MINUTE NEWS

### THE FOUR RESUME PALESTINE TALKS; SHERTOK PRESENTS PLAN FOR JEWISH GOVERNMENT TO U.N.

LAKE SUCCESS, Mar. 17. (JTA) -- The Big Four late tonight resumed their consultations on the Palestine question in an effort to prepare final recommendations for the Security Council session on Friday. (At the time the Bulletin went to press, no information as to the results of tonight's consultations was available.)

Moshe Shertok, head of the Jewish Agency's political department, today presented to the U.N. Palestine Commission the plan for the establishment of a Jewish Provisional Council of Government agreed upon in Palestine by the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Council. He proposed that the Provisional Council be composed of 31 or 32 members, with a Cabinet of 13. He also renewed the Agency's urgent request that the Commission appeal to governments to supply arms to the Jewish militia.

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## COMMISSION DISCUSSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVISIONAL JEWISH GOVT. WITH SHERTOK

LAKE SUCCESS, Mar. 17. (JTA) -- The bogging down of the Big Powers consultations on Palestine did not prevent the U.N. Palestine Commission today from conferring with Moshe Shertok, Jewish Agency representative, on the establishment of a Jewish Provisional Council of Government by April 1, as provided by the partition decision of the General Assembly.

The Commission is undeterred by the feeling that the events of the past 24 months have weakened faith that the United Nations will be able to take any strong action of its own in Palestine. This feeling developed after France reneged last year from the position it took earlier that the present situation in Palestine constitutes a threat to peace.

The American delegation at the United Nations today refused to either confirm or deny a report that Warren Austin, head of the delegation, has similarly changed his attitude on the subject of reporting to the Security Council that a threat to peace exists in Palestine because of the armed invasion of Arabs from neighboring countries. Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency for comment on this report, a spokesman for the U.S. delegation replied: "No comment."

## Arab Countries Say Truce Is Possible If Partition Is Not Enforced

Acting on the recommendation of the Big Powers, Dr. T.F. Tsiang, president of the Security Council, today consulted with representatives of the Arab states on the subject to which they would be ready to help in efforts to achieve an Arab-Jewish truce in Palestine. The six Arab delegations gave him an almost identical reply, expressing willingness to cooperate in truce efforts providing the partition decision is not implemented.

No reply has been received as yet from the Palestine Arab Higher Committee to the Big Powers' call for a truce. Jewish Agency leaders in New York continued today their consultations with members of the Agency executive in Jerusalem regarding a reply to the Big Powers on the truce question.

A statement released today by the Jewish Agency takes issue with the declaration made yesterday at the Security Council by Syria's delegate Faris el Khouri that the Arab states have not intervened in the Palestine fighting. Emphasizing that this declaration "does not square with the facts," the Agency charged that six Arab regiments which have taken up positions in Palestine are under the command of three officers from Syria and three from Iraq. "There is documentary evidence that recruiting has been done openly and publicly in Syria, officially organized by the Syrian Ministry of Defense," the Agency statement said.

The Jewish Agency also ridiculed the address of the Lebanese delegate yesterday at the Security Council in which he again brought forward his proposal for establishing Palestine as a federal state with guaranteed rights for minorities. "Developments in Lebanon discredit its spokesman," the Jewish Agency statement declared. "As in all other Arab countries, Jews in Lebanon are now the victims of open persecution."

## ARABS APPROACHED IN JERUSALEM FOR TRUCE NEGOTIATIONS; AGENCY CLARIFIES ITS STAND

JERUSALEM, Mar. 17. (JTA) -- Acting on the armistice call issued by the Big Three, Richard Graves, British chairman of the municipality of Jerusalem, today took initiative and approached leaders of Jewish and Arab institutions with a view to inducing them to agree to a truce.

Commenting on this move, a spokesman for the Jewish Agency said: "The Agency is ready, nay, eager, to agree to a truce for any length of time on conditions which have been discussed. However, it will not accept a truce which will rely solely on Arab promises and will in the meantime leave the Jews in Jerusalem, or in any other part of the country, unprotected."

The Jewish Agency inquiry committee which has been investigating the circumstances surrounding the explosion Feb. 22 on Ben Yehuda Street here--which caused the death of 56 Jews--today issued a ten-point report attributing the explosion directly to Arab provocations.

The report establishes that the armored car which was blown up was a police car and that the trucks used in the blast were military vehicles. The setting off of explosives in one or more of these trucks, the report said, caused the casualties.

The Jewish Agency inquiry committee also ascertained that the persons who were seen in the trucks and in the police car were British; that there is no evidence that Arabs were occupants of the vehicles; that it was possible for the police to prevent the car from entering the area before the blast and it was also possible for them to prevent the escape of the terrorists from Jerusalem after the explosion.

### 19 Arabs Killed, Many Wounded in Explosion; Four-Hour Battle Near Nazareth

Nineteen Arabs, believed to be Syrians, were killed and 36 wounded when an Arab convoy, trying to break through a Jewish road block near Kiriath Motzkin, was destroyed by a Haganah force. An Arab truck in the convoy apparently filled with explosives, blew up, resulting in the casualties. The blast dug a crater 40 feet deep. A military truck which arrived from the opposite direction was hurled over by the blast. More than 30 Jews were reported injured and one killed.

A four-hour battle between Arabs and Jews took place today in the Nazareth area, when a large unit of Arabs attacked Jewish settlers in the neighborhood of Keshet. The settlement had been surrounded by about 300 Arabs until Jewish reinforcements arrived and engaged the guerrillas. Casualties among the Arabs are believed to be high.

Arabs today attacked Jewish convoys on the way to the Hadassah Hospital. After midnight, Haganah units penetrated the Arab village Castel, from which an Arab force conducted attacks on Jewish convoys between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. They smashed the inner defenses of the village, demolished the band's headquarters and killed several of the terrorists.

Fifty-four Jews, including women, were released today from the Athlit detention camp, where several of the women had been confined for four years.

Dr. Fritz Bernstein, head of the Jewish Agency's Department of Trade and Industry, told a press conference in Tel Aviv last night that the Agency is speeding up plans to create a monetary system for the Jewish state that would be based on the American dollar. Dr. Bernstein said that Soviet Russia is ready to establish trade negotiations with the Jews of Palestine. He also reported that a recent statistical survey disclosed that not only was there no economic crisis in Jewish Palestine, but there was actually a shortage of manpower:

IN EVADES ANSWER ON WHETHER ARAB INFILTRATION CONSTITUTES THREAT TO PEACE

LONDON, Mar. 17. (JTA) -- The British Government today evaded answering the question as to whether the infiltration of Arab terrorists from neighboring countries into Palestine constitutes a threat to peace.

The question was asked in the House of Commons by a member of Parliament. Instead of giving a direct reply, Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech-Jones said that the British Government made representations to the governments of Syria, Lebanon and Jordan when the incursions took place. All possible steps, he told Parliament, were taken by the authorities in Palestine to prevent such incursions, but added that it is not always possible to control the Palestine frontiers because of their geographical set-up.

The Manchester Guardian, long a champion of the Zionist cause, today urged the Jews to reconsider their position on Palestine since, it said, it is generally admitted that the present form of partition for Palestine is unworkable.

"If the Jews put the lives of the Jewish men and women of Palestine and the hope above the symbol of a state or the letter of the General Assembly's resolution, they should be prepared to make concessions," the newspaper said. It suggested that the Jews might give up the Negev. "No one doubts the courage or ability of the Jews to defend themselves in Palestine, but even victory might be bought at too high a cost in Jewish lives and prosperity," the editorial declared.

The first contingent of families of British officials in Palestine evacuated from the country arrived here today. Most of them are families of British policemen in Palestine. The group told newsmen that the fighting in Palestine was a matter for the Jews and Arabs to settle among themselves. Most of them said they would be willing to return, adding that "there is no place like Palestine."

U.S. GOVT. IS GIVING "AID AND COMFORT" TO ARABS, LEHMAN CHARGES IN WASHINGTON ADDRESS

WASHINGTON, Mar. 17. (JTA) -- Charging that American policy on Palestine is giving "aid and comfort to the Arabs," former Governor Herbert H. Lehman, speaking at the formal launching here of the Washington drive on behalf of the nationwide \$50,000,000 United Jewish Appeal campaign, tonight demanded that the United States promptly lift its embargo on arms for Palestine.

At the same time, Gov. Lehman called upon the U.N. Security Council to establish and send to Palestine an international police force "to prevent breach of the peace and nullification of its own decision," and urged the Council to invoke "other measures for the maintenance of peace and security."

Stressing that the Arabs "can without difficulty get all the arms they need" from countries adjacent to Palestine, Lehman called upon the U.S. Government "to re-examine the effects of its embargo and to see that we do not give aid and comfort to aggressors who constitute a threat not only to peace in Palestine but to peace everywhere."

AMERICAN COMPANY WILL NOT LAY PIPELINE IN PALESTINE EVEN THOUGH IT HAS RIGHT OF WAY

WASHINGTON, Mar. 17. (JTA) -- The Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company, affiliated with the Arabian-American Oil Company, will not try to put a pipeline through Palestine at the present time, even though the company has a right of way, James T. Duce told the Senate Small Business Committee today.

Duce, who is vice-president of Arabian-American, made this statement in reply to a question whether the company would use Palestine as an alternative if Syria refused to ratify a pending agreement to grant his company permission to go through.

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JEWS DETAINED IN KENYA BEGIN 24-HOUR HUNGER STRIKE PROTESTING REPATRIATION DELAY

LONDON, Mar. 17. (JTA) -- The approximately 300 Jews detained in the Gilgil government camp in Kenya have begun a 24-hour hunger strike, according to a cable from the detainees received here today by the Assirei Zion committee. The message said the Jews are protesting the delay in their repatriation to Palestine.

Meanwhile, Viscount Samuel and MP's Sidney Silverman and Elwyn Jones have formed the committee they are making representations to the Colonial Office on behalf of the imprisoned Jews. It was simultaneously reported that the International Cross will intercede with the Colonial Office on behalf of the Kenya detainees, following a request by the Assirei Zion committee.

(From Jerusalem it was reported that the "Jewish war prisoners" whom the British are planning to take with them when they evacuate Palestine will include a group of recently-returned detainees from Kenya. The report was broadcast by the Yiddish radio and warned that British officials responsible for the plan will "pay with their lives" if it is carried out.)

NON-ZIONIST GROUP IN BRITAIN OBJECTS TO ZIONIST BEING PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF DEPUTIES

LONDON, Mar. 17. (JTA) -- Acting on behalf of a group of non-Zionists, Dr. Hillel Laski, former president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, today submitted a resolution to the board declaring it undesirable, under the present circumstances, that the president of the board should also be a member of the executive of the Jewish Agency.

"The continuation of this situation," the resolution said, "is fraught with danger to the Anglo-Jewish community." Prof. Selig Brodetsky, the present president of the board, is a member of the Jewish Agency executive.

Zionist circles, commenting on the resolution, said: "Prof. Brodetsky's prestige is so high in the community that only a small section will follow the lead of those who, if they pursue their course, will commit an act of irresponsibility towards the wider interests of Anglo-Jewry and the cause of Zion."

POLISH GOVT. WILL FINANCE CHAIR IN JEWISH HISTORY AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY IN JERUSALEM

WARSAW, Mar. 17. (JTA) -- The Polish Government will finance the establishment of a chair in the history of Polish Jewry at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, it was announced here today. At the same time it was made known that, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture, the Jewish Central Committee assembled about 100,000 scholarly volumes, chiefly of religious content, for shipment to the Hebrew University.

Approximately 28,000,000 zlotys have been collected by local Jewish communities in Poland for Haganah, with the quota set at 70,000,000 zlotys. The funds were raised chiefly at mass meetings held in all parts of the country. The "Polish-Palestinian Friendship Society," in which several ministers, deputies, university professors and writers are members, has also been active in behalf of the Haganah campaign.

BUDAPEST COMMANDANT RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATH OF THOUSANDS OF HUNGARIAN JEWS ARRESTED

BUDAPEST, Mar. 17. (JTA) -- Imre Nidosy Szalasi, former commandant in Budapest during the pro-Nazi regime, who was responsible for the death of thousands of Hungarian Jews during the war, was arrested today in a provincial town. Szalasi issued the deportation orders which sent thousands of Jews in Hungary to their death in the Nazi extermination camps in Poland.

DAIA URGES JEWISH PARENTS IN ARGENTINA TO REMOVE CHILDREN FROM CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS

BUENOS AIRES, Mar. 17. (JTA) -- Jewish parents in Argentina were urged today to take whatever steps may be necessary to remove their children from Catholic schools. The call was issued by the DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry, which urged that Jewish children in Argentina be enrolled in Jewish education-institutions.

Meanwhile, it was reported here from Santiago, Chile, that Roberto Bunge, Chilean Commissioner to Combat Speculation, has charged that "the refugees, mostly Jews, have abused the hospitality of Chile," and have abandoned positions in the country's economy to which they were originally assigned. A number of Jewish immigrants to Chile entered the country as agricultural workers.

Bunge issued a statement asserting that the refugees are working as "commercial intermediaries" and competing for the business of established firms. The commissioner also charged that the refugees were leasing apartments at exorbitant prices, creating a situation of "real strangulation." However, the report from Santiago points out that the economic crisis in Chile is a result of the government's "irresponsible policy of over-industrialization."

REVISIONIST PARTY OF U.S. CONDEMNES PARTITION DECISION; JEWISH AGENCY POLICIES HIT

NEW YORK, Mar. 17. (JTA) -- Resolutions strongly condemning the U.N. General Assembly partition resolution and the policies of the Jewish Agency were adopted at a convention of the United Zionists-Revisionists of America which concluded here today.

The convention also adopted a resolution lauding the Irgun Zvai Leumi for its historic struggle for Jewish statehood." Dr. Joseph Schechtman was elected president of the organization, after it was announced earlier that Meir Grossman had resigned from the post.

Discussions at the parley centered around the need for more "aggressive and independent political action in the international field." Dr. B. Netanyahu, executive director of the organization, B. Epstein and Dr. Harry Levi were elected to represent the group at the forthcoming world meeting of the Revisionist Party.

HASHOMER HATZAIR CONFERENCE URGES U.S. JEWRY TO CONTRIBUTE MANPOWER TO JEWISH STATE

NEW YORK, Mar. 17. (JTA) -- A call to American Jewry to "give its manpower and its political assistance, in addition to financial support," to the Jewish community in Palestine in order to help in the establishment of the Jewish state was made at the first annual conference of the Progressive Zionist League-Hashomer Hatzair which concluded here last night.

Delegates from all sections of the United States and Canada attended the parley which lasted three days. The gathering adopted resolutions expressing solidarity with the Jews of Palestine and emphasizing that the future of Palestine depends on the creation of Jewish-Arab cooperation in the economic, social and political fields.

SO. AFRICAN HAGANAH GROUP TO RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE IN PALESTINE AFTER MAY 15

JOHANNESBURG, So. Africa, Mar. 17. (JTA) -- Outlining the purpose of the newly-established "South African League for Haganah," a spokesman for the group said today it was organized at the request of the Haganah in Palestine to mobilize support for the Jewish community there and to recruit volunteers prepared to serve in Palestine after May 15.