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GROMYKO ASKS FOR "CONCRETE STEPS" BY U.N. TO CHECK A THREAT TO PEACE IN PALESTINE

LAKE SUCCESS, March 18. (JTA) -- Soviet delegate Andrei Gromyko today termed tentative Big Four agreement on the Palestine issue as only a "half step" in the right direction. He called for "concrete steps" by the Security Council to deal with threat to peace involved in the Palestine situation.

The agreement to which the Soviet delegate referred was reached late last night by the representatives of the Big Four. It was indicated this decision is not necessarily final. The agreement provided that the United States, the USSR, France and the United Kingdom should jointly recommend to the Security Council that the following two steps be taken in connection with the Palestine question:

1. The Security Council should clearly declare that it will not permit the existence of a threat to peace to develop in Palestine.
2. The Security Council should take every step in its power immediately to bring about an end to the violence and disorder in Palestine.

The agreement involved a compromise on the part of all the four Big Powers and renewed an earlier recommendation by the United States, Soviet Union and France that the Security Council should recognize that a threat to peace exists in Palestine due to infiltration of armed Arabs from neighboring countries. Later, France reneged on this recommendation.

Gromyko made his statement to the press today following developments which indicated the impossibility of a truce being reached between the Arabs and the Jews in Palestine. Efforts by the Big Four to secure such a truce came to a dead end last night when the Jewish Agency replied that any truce in Palestine must be within the framework of the partition decision of the General Assembly. The Arab countries, on the other hand, told the President of the Security Council that they would be willing to cooperate in efforts for a truce, providing that the partition decision is not implemented.

Other conditions for a truce set by the Jewish Agency in its reply to the Big Four call for an armistice stipulated that Arab forces which infiltrated from neighboring countries must be withdrawn from Palestine; that no further infiltration of such forces is to take place; that Arab mobilization against Jews must be stopped during the armistice. Thus far, the Palestine Arab Higher Committee has given no reply to the call for a truce.

The Security Council is scheduled to meet tomorrow to hear final recommendations from the Big Four on the Palestine issue. Although they agreed on a two-point program for submission to the Council, the Big Four did not succeed in reaching agreement on the text of the preamble to this program. Consultations will continue tonight in the hope that a compromise can also be reached on the wording of the preamble.

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2 JEWS, 5 BRITONS KILLED IN ARAB ATTACKS ON CONVOYS NEAR JERUSALEM AND HAIFA

JERUSALEM, March 18. (JTA) -- Eight Jews were killed today when Arabs ambushed a Jewish convoy at Hartov, some 14 miles west of Jerusalem. Later, the Arab force, estimated at 500, encircled the town of Hartov and attempted to overwhelm it. Reinforcements have been rushed in from nearby Jewish settlements.

Five British soldiers and four Jews were killed today when a strong force of Arabs ambushed a Jewish convoy on the Haifa-Acre road not far from Kiriyyath Motzkin where 19 Arabs were killed yesterday attempting to break through a Jewish road block in a convoy carrying explosives. The extent of the Arab casualties are not known. When reinforcements arrived on the scene later, two vehicles abandoned during the running fight were found completely burned out.

Five Jews were seriously injured when a landmine blew up an armored car in which they were travelling on the road between Safad and Rosh Pinah. Arab sniping during the day cost two Jews their lives in Haifa. Six others were wounded.

Haganah commando units today blew up a strategic bridge connecting three roads leading to Jaffa over which large quantities of arms and ammunition, as well as guerrilla reinforcements, have been pouring into the city in preparation for an attack on Tel Aviv. There were no Jewish casualties.

Several persons were injured in the Tel Aviv area when a 21-vehicle convoy was fired on by unidentified persons. An accompanying military patrol was also a target for attack and two Britons were wounded. A 14 year-old girl was wounded in Tel Aviv by Arab snipers. In Jerusalem two Jews were wounded by bullets fired at Jewish convoys heading for the Hadassah hospital on Mt. Scopus.

British Civil Administration May Leave Palestine Month Ahead of Schedule

The British civil administration of Palestine may evacuate the country by April 15, one month ahead of the date set by the British Government for termination of the Mandate, it was learned here today. Observers believe that the rapidly deteriorating situation in the country may force the earlier withdrawal.

It was pointed out that the British are anxious to avoid the loss of additional British lives for a cause which they consider lost. This view is shared by top military officials who believe that the Jews will establish their state despite all obstacles which the Arabs or British may put in their way.

Meanwhile, it was learned here that High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham is considering moving to Haifa even before April 15.

NO EXPANSION OF TRANSJORDAN COASTLINE TO INCLUDE TIP OF NEGEV ENVISAGED BY BRITAIN

LONDON, March 18. (JTA) -- The Foreign Office today stated that reference to ports in the plural in the revised treaty between Transjordan and Britain is merely "a drafting point" and does not indicate that an extension of the Transjordan coastline is envisaged.

Some observers interpreted the reference to ports as indication that Britain visualizes the possibility of including the tip of the Negev in Palestine, bordering on the Red Sea, into the Transjordan. At present Transjordan has only one port--Aqaba.

The Britain-Transjordan treaty, which is to remain in force for 25 years, provides for mutual military aid and gives each party the right to bring troops into the other's territory in the event of a war. The military annex to the treaty also calls for the maintenance of British RAF units in Amman and Mafrak at British expense. Britain will also continue its extensive military training program in Transjordan.

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REGISTRATION OF ALL JEWISH DP'S IN UPPER AUSTRIA FOR COMPULSORY WORK TO END IN MARCH

VIENNA, March 18.(JTA) -- Registration of all Jewish displaced persons in Upper Austria for compulsory labor service is expected to be completed by the end of this month and no serious difficulties have to date been reported as a result of the registration, as was generally predicted, it was learned here today.

Representatives of the International Refugee Organization, the Joint Distribution Committee and the U. S. Army have expressed gratification at the smoothness with which registration is proceeding in the Salzburg area. To date there have not been any attempts to register the Jewish DP'S in Vienna, since most of these refugees are transients.

Although the total Jewish population of the DP camps in Austria today is reported to be 22,000, it is difficult to ascertain how many Jews will actually be affected by the compulsory work law. Most estimates, however, run between 6,000 and 8,000.

The needs of the Austrian economy and the skills of the Jewish refugees, it is pointed out here in Jewish circles, are diametrically opposed. The urgent need of the country at the present time is for skilled agricultural and construction workers, while most of the Jews are either merchants or white collar workers. If an attempt to force the Jews into unskilled labor is made, it is felt here that serious difficulties will arise, since the attitude of the Jews-- that of refusing to work for a country which they identify with Nazi bestiality --remains steadfast, despite all attempts by Jewish groups here to educate the refugees away from this view.

Many of the refugees are, nonetheless, coming around to the idea that by working in the Austrian economy, they will be aiding the American Government. The Jews feel that since the U. S. is currently supporting the Austrians at the rate of \$3.00 per person monthly, any work which they will contribute to the Austrian economy will relieve the burden of the U. S. Government.

PRAGUE PAPER APOLOGIZES TO CZECH MINISTER FOR REPORTING THAT HE SPOKE AGAINST JEWS

PRAGUE, March 18.(JTA) -- A report that Minister of Information Vaclav Kopecky made derogatory statements about Jews of East European origin in the course of an address delivered in a Czech provincial town was denied today and the Prague newspaper which carried it published an apology.

The newspaper --Pravo Lidu--revealed that the report was written by a member of the Czechoslovak Parliament who, in the meantime, has been expelled from the Social Democratic Party. The report caused a sensation when it appeared, since Kopecky's pro-Jewish sentiments are well known.

A. L. Easterman, political secretary of the World Jewish Congress, was received here today by Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Vladislav Clementis, to whom he conveyed the Congress' condolences on the death of Jan Masaryk.

Clementis discussed with Easterman general and Jewish conditions in Czechoslovakia, particularly as they relate to the recent political changes in the country. After the meeting, Easterman said he greatly appreciates the positive and encouraging interest shown by Clementis in current Jewish problems as well as his friendly attitude to the Congress.

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LAND GRANTS THREE-MONTHS EXTENSION TO JEWS DESIRING TO EMIGRATE FROM COUNTRY

WARSAW, March 18. (JTA) -- As a result of discussions initiated by Jewish communal leaders, Polish authorities today granted a three-month extension of certain provisions facilitating the emigration of Jews from Poland. The special provisions for Jews was originally ordered suspended as of March 31, 1948.

(Earlier this month, Jan Galewicz, Polish Consul General in New York, said that certain modifications have been made in the procedure for issuing exit passports, and that they would apply to Jews as well as to all other citizens of Poland.)

The presidium of the Central Committee of Polish Jews today approved a million zloty budget for various Jewish communal activities in 1948. Eighty per cent of the budget is expected to be covered by the Joint Distribution Committee and the remainder will be raised among the Jews in Poland.

The presidium decided to ask the government for a greater subsidy for Jewish cultural and social needs and to seek the inclusion of support of various Jewish institutions in a number of Polish towns in the local municipal budgets.

STATE DEPARTMENT URGES U.S. NATIONALS TO SUBMIT CLAIMS FOR PROPERTY IN HUNGARY

WASHINGTON, March 18. (JTA) -- Property claims in Hungary of American nationals living outside Hungary should be prepared and submitted to the Office of the Legal Adviser of the Department of State, as soon as possible, the Department announced today. Individuals, corporations and associations are included in the term nationals.

The peace treaty with Hungary provides for restoration of legal rights and interests of American nationals in Hungary as of September 1, 1939. The requirements of the Hungarian Government regarding preparation of claims have been communicated to the State Department which will soon make them known directly to all claimants of whom the Department has a record. Those desiring to file claims and who have not previously communicated with the State Department, should do so at once, according to the Department's announcement. Claimants living in Hungary are advised to prepare and file their claims with the American Legation in Budapest after receiving instructions on preparation of claims.

The State Department and the American Legation in Budapest will try to aid claimants where possible in preparing their claims and in sending them to the Hungarian Government. The Department points out, however, that full responsibility for the actual preparation of claims and for submission of the necessary documentary evidence establishing their validity, rests with the claimants and their attorneys.

ZIONISTS, NON-ZIONISTS IN HUNGARY REACH UNITY; EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE JEWS

BUDAPEST, March 18. (JTA) -- Unity among Zionists and non-Zionists was achieved here today at a convention of the Hungarian Zionist Federation, attended by Zionist leaders. The convention adopted resolutions expressing solidarity with the Jews of Palestine and urging the Jews in Hungary to work for democratic aims in all fields of public life.

Jewish communities throughout Hungary are participating in the country-wide celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the 1848 revolution. All synagogues in Hungary have arranged special commemorative services, while a special ceremony was held at the tomb of Jewish heroes who died in the 1848 revolt.

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FRENCH JEWS URGED TO AID HAGANAH; MEETING VOICES CONFIDENCE IN JEWISH STATE

PARIS, March 18. (JTA) -- An appeal to French Jewry to aid the Haganah in Palestine was made here last night at a mass meeting sponsored by the Union of French Zionists. The meeting also expressed confidence that the Jewish state would be established in the near future.

Speakers at the meeting included Andre Blumel, president of the Union; Judge Leon Meiss, president of the CRIF, central representative body of French Jewry; Deputy Pierre Bloch and representatives of the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund.

HADASSAH APPEALS TO STATE DEPARTMENT TO PREVENT DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM HOSPITAL

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- Hadassah today appealed to the State Department and the British Ambassador in Washington to prevent Abdel Kader el Hussein, Arab commander in Jerusalem, from carrying out a threat made yesterday to demolish the Hadassah Hospital and Hebrew University on Mt. Scopus.

The appeal was also sent to the U.N. Palestine Commission, the International Committee of the American Red Cross. "Action against the aggressor is what we want and want immediately," the message, signed by Mrs. Samuel Halprin, national president, declared.

WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WAIT REPORT THAT MAY DECIDE U.S. OIL PLANS IN MIDDLE EAST

WASHINGTON, March 18. (JTA) -- Official circles here were today awaiting a report from military experts now in the Middle East that may determine America's oil program in that area.

Secretary of Defense James Forrestal revealed yesterday that such a report is expected "within 48 hours." He told a Senate subcommittee that "events in the last several weeks" may compel the United States to change its plans to boost oil production in the Middle East.

PALESTINIAN CULTURAL, SOCIAL WELFARE LEADERS TELL OF NEED FOR CONTINUED AMERICAN AID

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- The maintenance of "cultural and spiritual values" in Palestine is necessary to the defense of the Jewish community there, it was stressed yesterday at a press conference arranged by the American Fund for Palestinian Institutions at which a group of Palestinian social welfare and cultural leaders participated.

Edward A. Norman, president of the American Fund, pointed out that the organization supports 89 secular and religious, cultural, educational and social welfare institutions in Palestine. "We are helping to sustain the morale and strengthen the confidence of the Jewish community in Palestine--to grow in power and to achieve a full and peaceful life for themselves, their children and the terror-stricken refugees whom they welcome into their lives," he said.

Among the Palestinian leaders at the news conference were Henry Haftel, concert master of the Palestine Philharmonic Orchestra; Dr. Alexander Rosenfeld, general secretary of the Hebrew World Union; Dr. Ellen Simon, associate director of the Ezereth Nashim Hospital; Moshe Pomrok, of the Palestine Maritime League; Dr. Raphael Patai, director of the Institute of Folklore and Ethnology in Palestine and Jedidiah Gorchov, president of the Palestine Composers and Authors Association.