LAST MINUTE NEWS

AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR PALESTINE TRUSTEESHIP FORMALY PRESENTED TO SECURITY COUNCIL

LAKE SUCCESS, March 19. (JTA) -- Sen. Warren R. Austin, head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations, formally announced this afternoon at the Security Council the American proposal for establishment of an international trusteeship for Palestine which he had revealed earlier at a meeting of the Big Powers. (See earlier story on pages 1-4.)

Declaring that there seems to be "general agreement" that the partition plan cannot be implemented now by peaceful means, and that "it is clear that the Security Council is not prepared to go ahead with efforts to implement the plan in the existing situation," Austin made the following statement:

"My Government believes that a temporary trusteeship for Palestine should be established under the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations to maintain the peace and to afford the Jews and Arabs of Palestine further opportunity to reach an agreement regarding the future government of that country. Such a United Nations trusteeship would, of course, be without prejudice to the character of the eventual political settlement, which we hope can be achieved without long delay. In our opinion, the Security Council should recommend the establishment of such a trusteeship to the General Assembly and to the Mandatory Power. This would require an immediate special session of the General Assembly, which the Security Council might call under the terms of the Charter."

"Pending the meeting of the special session of the General Assembly, we believe that the Security Council should instruct the Palestine Commission to suspend its efforts to implement the proposed partition plan. Draft resolutions which would give effect to the above suggestions will be circulated shortly for the consideration of the Security Council."

The American delegate also commented that "the plan proposed by the General Assembly is an integral plan which cannot succeed unless each of its parts can be carried out." He added that the Security Council has "an inescapable responsibility to bring about a cease-fire in Palestine and a halt to incursions into that country."

Austin earlier had expressed the view of the U.S. Government that under the terms of the League of Nations Mandate, and the General Assembly resolution on partition of Palestine, and the transfer of League of Nations functions to the United Nations, "the limited functions which the General Assembly offered to undertake in connection with its Palestine representation stand or fall with that resolution." If it proved impossible to give effect to that resolution, continued Austin, the
Silver Rejects Trusteeship: Says It Will Lead To More Violence

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver served notice on the Council that "the shocking reversal of its position" by the United States will not deter the Jewish community of Palestine from going ahead with the establishment of a Jewish State.

"The decision of the General Assembly remains valid for the Jewish people," said. "If the United Nations Commission is unable to carry out the mandates which were assigned to it by the General Assembly, the Jewish people of Palestine will move forward in the spirit of that resolution and will do everything which will be dictated by considerations of national survival, as well as the considerations of justice and historic rights."

The plan for an interim U.N. trusteeship is likely, he said, to lead "to increased violence in Palestine and will incalculably hurt the prestige of the United Nations for whose effectiveness the President of the United States pleaded again so recently as last Wednesday night."

"It should be clear to everyone," Dr. Silver added, "that the establishment of a trusteeship by the United Nations in Palestine will not automatically insure peace in that country." He warned that force will have to be used, just as it would have been required to carry out partition.

Dr. Silver said an attempt was clearly being made to force upon the Jewish community of Palestine a settlement that would "diminish its sovereignty, territory and immigration as was provided for in the partition plan. Otherwise no new proposals would now be made by the United States delegation looking toward a new solution."

"The Jewish Agency has repeatedly been under the necessity of stating that the partition plan represented maximum sacrifice on the part of the Jewish people beyond which it cannot go. Any proposals calling for further sacrifices will have to be imposed upon the Jewish community of Palestine by force."

He added that he hoped to be able to comment at a later opportunity upon the legal implications of Austin's statement. He told the Council that the Mandatory Power had never been able to confirm the arrival in Palestine of armed immigrants by sea.

Gromyko Charges U.S. Pressing Plan Throughout Big Four Talks

Soviet delegate Andrei Gromyko, in a preliminary comment on the U.S. proposal, said it was the U.S. delegation's intention throughout the Big Four talks to spring this plan, though he did not know what their intentions were before today.

He said it had nothing in common with the question of implementing the Palestine issue. He further labelled "misleading" the U.S. report that there was agreement among the Big Four that peaceful implementation was impossible. That, he said, is the view of China and the U.S. but not of other governments. Neither do the two general principles agreed upon by the Big Four lead to the United States conclusion, Gromyko charged. Instead, he said, they were formulated as a basis of implementation.

Before Gromyko spoke, Dr. T.F. Tsiang of China defined the function of the Council as one of preserving the peace. Therefore, he argued, the Council could not furnish or authorize the use of force and so favored in principle the U.S. reversal. As Council then adjourned until Wednesday morning.
UNITED STATES RECOMMENDS INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP FOR PALESTINE; RUSSIA OBJECTS

LAKE SUCCESS, March 19. (JTA) -- The Palestine question took a new and sudden turn today when U.S. delegate Warren R. Austin laid a proposal before the Big Powers at an interim United Nations trusteeship for Palestine be established, thus virtually scrapping the partition decision of the General Assembly.

The American delegate said he will ask the Security Council to call a special session of the Assembly in order that the new regime for Palestine can be established, take effect May 15, upon the termination of the British Mandate.

Immediate objections to the U.S. proposal were raised by Soviet delegate Andrei Gromyko, who saw in it a "striking contradiction to the decision of the General Assembly," and who, in response to Austin's suggestion that the Security Council should begin considering concrete proposals, said that would be impossible, that he would have to consult his government.

The U.S. plan, however, received immediate support from Dr. T.F. Tsaiang and Alexandre Perodi of France. Tsaiang said the trusteeship plan was in line with his government's attitude since the last General Assembly, adding that it was evident that any solution not agreeable to both parties might lead to war.

Perodi said he, too, would have to seek instructions from Paris, but that he felt certain the French Government would agree to a solution along the lines of the Austin plan.

U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie reminded the Big Powers conference that U.N. trusteeship for Palestine was not a new idea. It had been proposed to UNSCOP by the Australian delegation in 1947, and was withdrawn after UNSCOP had found it would be unacceptable to either Arabs or Jews and would precipitate a situation likely to require more outside aid than partition.

Austin Asks Palestine Commission to Suspend Implementation Operations

Austin told the Big Four that any truce in Palestine would have to be political as well as military, that under present conditions with the British giving up the Mandate May 15, it was not possible to establish peaceful conditions unless a successor government were prepared to take over at once. Since the United Nations had never taken a legal and binding decision to be that successor government, a special session must be held at once.

Meanwhile, the U.S. delegate declared, the Security Council should instruct the Palestine Commission to suspend its operations toward effecting implementation of the partition plan. The Assembly's plan, he said, was an integral whole and could not be implemented piecemeal. The Big Four had agreed, he said, that peaceful
A memorandum of the partition scheme was impossible. Czornyko objected to this statement. There was no general agreement to that effect, he insisted.

Austin emphasized that the trusteeship plan was an interim measure and that approval by a special session of the Assembly, if one were called, would not justify the legitimate rights and claims of either Arabs or Jews.


Earlier, at the morning session of the Security Council, sharp differences of opinion on Palestine developed following presentation of a report by Austin on the four consultations on whether the present situation in Palestine constitutes a threat to peace.

The American delegate said that the views expressed in his report were those of China, France and the United States. Soviet delegate Andrei Czornyko said he understood that, in making the report, Austin was speaking in the name of the American delegation only and not as rapporteur as he had not been so designated. Austin emphasized that the document was only the beginning of the Big Powers' report and that further consultations are intended "with a view to meeting the timetable" laid down in the partition plan of the U.N. General Assembly.

The Soviet delegate objected especially to that part of Austin's statement which said that "continuation of the infiltration into Palestine by land and sea of groups and persons with the purpose of taking part in violence would aggravate still further the situation." He said that he does not like the phrase "by land and sea" because "everyone knows which infiltration it is that endangers the implementation of the Assembly resolution." The insertion of this phrase, he stated, weakened the entire recommendation of the Big Powers to the Security Council and nullified its importance.

Any attempt to reopen the Palestine case on a basis other than partition, he said, throw the whole settlement back by at least a year since alternative plans and proposals had all been discussed and rejected at the special session last spring and at the subsequent second General Assembly session. Czornyko also expressed doubt as to the correctness of Austin's report that the Jewish Agency has indicated that the partition plan cannot be implemented by peaceful means under the present circumstances.

At the same time, the Soviet delegate agreed with the two-point recommendation presented by Austin urging the Security Council to make it clear that the Council "is determined not to permit the existence of a threat to international peace in Palestine" and that "the Council should take further action by all means available to it to bring about the immediate cessation of violence and the restoration of peace and order in Palestine."

Full Text of Austin Report: Bloodshed Predicted After Mandate's End

Austin reported that the consultations among the permanent members of the Council and informal communications with the Palestine Commission, the Mandatory Powers, the Jewish Agency and the Arab Higher Committee held since March 5, 1948, have developed the following facts regarding the situation with respect to Palestine:

1. The Jewish Agency accepts the partition plan, considers it to be the irreducible minimum acceptable to the Jews, and insists upon the implementation of the plan without modification.

2. The Arab Higher Committee rejects any solution based on partition in any form and considers that the only acceptable solution is the formation of one...
A dependent state for the whole of Palestine whose constitution would be based on democratic principles and which would include adequate safeguards for minorities and the safety of the Holy Places.

"3. No modifications in the essentials of the partition plan are acceptable to the Jewish Agency and no modifications would make the plan acceptable to the Arab Higher Committee.

"4. The Palestine Commission, the Mandatory Power, the Jewish Agency and the Arab Higher Committee have indicated that the partition plan cannot be implemented by peaceful means under present conditions.

"5. The Mandatory Power has confirmed that a considerable number of incursions of illegal arms and armed elements into Palestine have occurred by land and by sea.

"6. The gradual withdrawal of the military forces of the mandatory power will, in the absence of agreement, result in increasing violence and disorder in Palestine. Warfare of a guerrilla type grows more violent constantly.

"7. If the Mandate is terminated prior to a peaceful solution by the problem, large-scale fighting between the two communities can be expected.

"As a result of the consultations of the permanent members regarding the situation with respect to Palestine, they find and report that a continuation of the infiltration into Palestine by land and by sea of groups and persons with the purpose of taking part in violence would aggravate still further the situation and comment:

"(A) That the Security Council should make it clear to the parties and governments concerned that the Security Council is determined not to permit the existence of a threat to international peace in Palestine, and

"(B) That the Security Council should take further action by all means available to it to bring about the immediate cessation of violence and the restoration of peace and order in Palestine."

Silver Warns Security Council Against "Detour of Action"

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, addressing the morning session of the Security Council, said the contents of the forthcoming Council resolution would determine the importance of the recommendations contained in Austin's report. It would also determine whether they were a step forward toward implementation or a "detour of action," he said.

Dr. Silver took exception to the part of the report in which the Jewish Agency allegedly asserted to the conclusion of the Big Powers that peaceful partition is impossible "under present conditions." He said the Agency could agree to such a formulation provided the term "conditions" meant the attempt of Arab states to oppose the partition decision by force. He objected vigorously to the phrase referring to infiltration "by land and by sea," and pointed out that while the Palestine Government had reported several armed incursions of Arab troops to the Palestine Commission, the Mandatory Power had never referred to armed elements making incursions by sea.

He pointed to the danger of an equation in the public mind linking armed Arab bands which cross the border into Palestine for the express purpose of altering by force the Assembly decision and visaless Jewish immigrants or Cyprus detainees who go to Palestine "merely to settle in the country and live peacefully."
which is their right under the Mandate." The use of this terminology, Dr. Silver said, would be "regrettable and inexplicable."

Syrian Delegate Wants New Session of the General Assembly

Fares el Khouri of Syria told the Security Council that the Palestine Commission had no right to enter Palestine. He called on the Big Four to recommend a new session of the General Assembly to reconsider its partition decision. He charged that arms and Jewish "warriors" were arriving in Palestine from all parts of the world and described a truce as impossible when there are no real armies but only a mixed upolysis thrown into tension by partition.

Dr. Tsalang said the Austin report fully represented the views of his government. He revealed that it was he who insisted on the insertion of the phrase "by land or by sea" on the premise that if the Palestine situation is not to be permitted to develop into a threat to the peace," the accumulation of arms and armed elements" in Palestine must be stopped as quickly as possible.

THE ARABS KILLED IN ROAD BATTLE; ARABS BLAST THREE BRIDGES, JEWS BLOW UP ONE SPAN

JERUSALEM, March 19. (JTA) -- Nine Arabs were killed and three seriously wounded today when a truckload of guerrillas attempted to crash through a Jewish roadblock on the road between Acre and Ras el Nakura. The Arabs opened fire on a truckful of Jews and before the battle had ended all the Arabs were casualties except for one who escaped.

Five Jews were killed during an attack on a quarry near Ein Harod, in the Beisan Valley adjoining Transjordan. During the night the Arabs blasted three bridges between Afule and Kfar Yehesel, temporarily cutting off the Haifa area from the remainder of the settlement-studded Beisan Valley.

The Jews blew up a bridge near Safad across which Arab reinforcements were filtering into Palestine. In the Sheikh Jarach quarter of Jerusalem the Sternists blasted the headquarters of the Supreme Moslem Council. In Tel Aviv one Jewish woman was killed by Arab snipers from Jarfa.

PALESTINE BILL AMENDMENT ASSURES MANDATE'S ENDING MAY 15; LABORITE REVOLT BEATEN

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- The British Government made it clear today that the Palestine Mandate will terminate on May 15 when a Parliamentary committee considering the Palestine bill agreed to include an amendment submitted by Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech-Jones that the date be written into the bill. This move followed widespread criticism of the government's failure to insert a definite date for surrendering the Mandate into the bill.

At the same time, a Laborite amendment to turn the jurisdiction of Palestine over to the United Nations, or to a U.N.-appointed body when the Mandate ends was defeated by a vote of 124 to 17. Creech-Jones said that any blame for a breakdown in Palestine due to the U.N. Palestine Commission's not being ready to take over on May 15 would rest entirely with the United Nations.

HEBREW COMMITTEE ASKS U.S. VETERANS TO JOIN "WASHINGTON LEGION" TO SERVE IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- World War II veterans were urged today by the Hebrew Committee for National Liberation to register with the "George Washington Legion" for service in Palestine. Representatives of the Committee announced at a news conference that the American League for a Free Palestine will accept registrations for the Legion, which will be turned over to the United Nations so that "the U.N. will have the nucleus of a body of volunteers for the preservation of peace and civilization in Palestine."
LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- An attack on the "cruel" Jewish and Moslem method of ritual slaughter was made last night in the House of Lords by Lord Dowding, formerly a marshal in the R.A.F. "It is a pity," he said, referring to the Jewish and Moslem methods of slaughter, "we should be hampered in the process of setting our house in order by the religious ceremonial of the stranger that is within our gates."

Charging that "many more beasts are killed by the cruel Jewish methods than are required by Jews," Lord Dowding urged that slaughter by knife be prohibited and that laws applying to non-kosher slaughter houses be extended to Jewish abattoirs. Lord Hutchinson, Parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, said that if such a law were approved, the meat supply of a large section of the population would be cut off at a time when other food supplies were extremely short.

Elsley Zeitlyn, of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, pointed out that more than 400 eminent scientists, none of them Jewish, had described Jewish ritual slaughter as a most humane method. "The method of slaying is by severing the animal's major vein with one continuous movement of a knife" that is sharper than a surgeon's scalpel, causing almost instantaneous unconsciousness, he said.

Jewish Leaders in Belgium Discuss Return of Jewish Children from Convents with Prelate

BRUSSELS, March 19. (JTA) -- A deputation representing the Council of Jewish Associations of Belgium, headed by Prof. R. Gumbrecht, today presented a bronze medallion to Cardinal Van Roey, Archbishop of Malines, as a token of the gratitude of the Belgian Jews for help given it by the Catholics during the Nazi occupation.

The delegation drew the attention of the Cardinal to the question of Jewish children still in Belgian convents and with Catholic families in this country. The Cardinal promised to give that situation his careful attention. Referring to Palestine, the Cardinal said that it was impossible in his view to prevent the realization of a Jewish state.

Argentina Becomes 14th Nation to Join I.R.O.; One More Member Needed to Establish Body

GENEVA, March 19. (JTA) -- Argentina has completed full membership ratification as the fourteenth member of the International Refugee Organization, bringing it within one step of the fifteen-nation membership required for establishment as a full-fledged organization, it was announced here today by Acting Executive Secretary Sir Arthur Rocker.

The Argentine membership raises the contributions to the operating budget to 76.4 percent, topping the 75 percent total required for establishment of the organization. Argentina has already accepted approximately 2,000 displaced persons and 4,000 Andes Poles from Great Britain and has ordered the issuance of landing permits for approximately 10,000 more DP's. However, few Jews will benefit from this order.

Marshall Says Situation in Middle East is Critical; Stresses Europe Requires Priority

BERKELEY, Calif., March 19. (JTA) -- Speaking at the University of California today, Secretary of State George C. Marshall drew attention to the fact that a critical situation exists not only in Europe but also in the Middle East. He emphasized the need for priority of action in Europe.
TEL AVIV, March 19. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund will spend $9,200,000 in 1948 for the establishment of a new city in the Negev and the provision of security and water for new agricultural settlements there, it was revealed here today at a press conference by Dr. Abraham Granovsky, J.N.F. president.

He added that the J.N.F. will concentrate its efforts this year on the reclamation of the Negev area. The over-all J.N.F. budget for 1948 is $44,000,000, Dr. Granovsky announced.

PROTESTANT LEADERS PROTEST SENATE DP BILL AS DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST JEWS, CATHOLICS

BOSTON, March 19. (JTA) -- Six leading Massachusetts Protestant clergymen have protested the displaced persons bill now pending in the U.S. Senate on the grounds that it discriminated against Jews and Catholics. They filed their protests with Senators Leverett Saltonstall and Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.

In a letter released here today the six said they "deplored any preferential status given to any group because of national or religious affiliation." The clergymen expressed regret that Baltic nationals were given preferred status in the bill, pointing out that this "results in marked discrimination against Catholic and Jewish persons."

"We protest the virtual exclusion of Jews by the establishment of Dec.22,1945, as the last date of registration of displaced persons," the clergymen declared. 'This date shuts out hope for the tragic survivors of the 1946 pogroms in Poland, Rumania, and Hungary who could find no refuge other than the D.P. camp. In the name of humanity," they said, 'we urge you to correct these obvious inequities."

The letter was signed by Bishop Lewis O. Hartman of the New England Methodist Church; the Rev. Dr. Isaac Higginbotham, general secretary of the Massachusetts Unitarian Association; the Rev. Dr. Norman B. Ech, Episcopal Bishop of Massachusetts; the Rev. Dr. Frank Jennings, executive secretary of the Massachusetts Council of Churches; the Rev. Dr. Ralph M. Timberlake, president of the Massachusetts Congregational Conference, and the Rev. Dr. Frederick M. Eliot, president of the American Unitarian Association.

GEDALIAH BUBLICK, NOTED WRITER AND MIZRACHI LEADER, DIES AT MEETING; WAS 73

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- Gedaliah Bublick, well-known Yiddish writer and Mizrahi leader, died here late last night at a meeting of the Rabbinical Council of America. He suffered an attack in the middle of an address to the group. He was 73 years old.

Born in Grodno, Russia, he led a group of 200 Jewish families at the turn of the century to Novosville, Argentina, where he served as a teacher in the Jewish Colonization Association schools. He came to New York four years later, joining the staff of the defunct Yiddish daily, Tageblatt. Later he became a member of the editorial staff of the Jewish Morning Journal, to which he was a regular contributor. He was also one of the founders of the American Jewish Congress.

LOUIS MOSS, FORMER PRESIDENT OF UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA, DIES AT 64

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- Louis J. Moss, who served as president of the United Synagogue of America from 1931 to 1944, died here last night at the age of 64. Born in Hungary, he was brought to the United States at three. He had served on the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee and on the administrative committee of the United Palestine Appeal.