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PALESTINE JEWISH INSTITUTIONS CALL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVISIONAL GOVT. BY MAY 15

TEL AVIV, March 23. (JTA) -- A Provisional Jewish Government must be proclaimed no later than May 15, a joint meeting of the Jewish Agency executive and the Jewish National Council decided here late tonight.

After a lengthy meeting a joint statement was issued rejecting categorically any form of trusteeship for Palestine as "depriving the Jews of independence."

The session also extended the hand of friendship to the Arabs in Palestine and in the neighboring states and asked for cooperation between the two peoples.

A truckload of explosives was tonight set off by Arabs in the Jewish Yemin Moshe quarter of Jerusalem. Two abandoned buildings were demolished and several other structures were damaged. First reports stated that four Jews suffered superficial wounds, while British troops and Jews opened fire on Arab positions which had covered the truck-bomb. Eight Arabs were injured and one soldier was killed in the subsequent exchange. (For further details of Palestine violence see page 2.)

U.N. Commission Shelves Discussion of Jewish Provisional Government

LAKE SUCCESS, March 23. (JTA) -- The U.N. Commission which was slated to discuss a Jewish Provisional Government in Palestine met today without taking up the question. Instead the Commission concerned itself with a number of minor administrative matters.

Apparently the members of the five-man body were waiting for a decision on the American proposal for a U.N. Trusteeship for Palestine by the Security Council which tomorrow resumes its consideration of the Palestine situation.

Meanwhile, the Australian delegation at Lake Success released a slashing attack on the U.S. move against partition made today by Australia's Minister for External Affairs, Dr. Herbert V. Evatt. Evatt, in a statement in Canberra, described the move as inspired by anti-Jewish intrigue and predicted it will not be approved by a special session of the General Assembly.

Challenging the right of the Security Council to overrule the Assembly decision, Dr. Evatt said: "If a special U.N. Assembly session is called it is hardly likely to accept any plan which involves the annihilation of the previous decision unless new facts of overwhelming cogency are proved to exist." At the same time Evatt questioned behind-the-scenes motives for the U.S. proposal when he added that the "United Nations decision has been gradually undermined by intrigues directed against the Jewish people."

U.S. chief delegate Warren Austin, commenting on the Evatt statement, said he found it "obscure." He added: "I think Evatt misunderstood the situation."

JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE REPORTED SPLIT OVER PROCLAIMING PROVISIONAL JEWISH GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, March 23. (JTA) -- A split over whether to proclaim a provisional Jewish government on April 1 as provided for by the U.N. General Assembly is developing among members of the Jewish Agency executive now meeting in Tel Aviv to decide on Jewish political policy in the light of the American proposal for a trusteeship, it is learned today.

The faction which opposes the immediate formation of an independent Jewish state proposed that the question be held in abeyance until after April 3 when the Zionist Actions Committee will convene in Palestine. The decision to convoke the Zionist policy-making body was reached late last night. It is expected that the Actions Committee meeting will be followed by a meeting of the Jewish National Assembly of Palestine.

Meanwhile, the Agency announced this morning that it will make every effort to take over government functions in the Jewish part of Palestine as soon as possible to "avoid the spread of chaos."

Sharp fighting broke out in the Yemin Moshe quarter of Jerusalem when Arabs from the surrounding neighborhoods attempted to force their way into the Jewish area. Mortars were used and one shell burst outside the Palestine Information Office showing British and Palestinian personnel with glass and mortar.

British Shell and Occupy Arab Village Near Jerusalem

In the area immediately west of Jerusalem, several companies of British infantry, numbering approximately 500 men, and several tanks, today occupied an Arab village near the Jewish settlement of Hartuv after forcing all Arabs to flee under a rain of shells from 25 pound medium anti-tank guns. The occupation appeared to be in retaliation for the murder of two British soldiers who were beaten to death yesterday while a British company supported by artillery broke up a three-day siege of Hartuv and a blockade of the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road. It was reported that 60 houses were destroyed by the artillery barrage this morning.

The Arab guerrilla force retreating from Hartuv yesterday attempted to launch a full-scale attack on the Rehavia district of Jerusalem. The Jews fought back with the assistance of small artillery support from the British who had gunposts set up in a nearby quarter. The British also sent out two reconnaissance planes to photograph the Arabs who, after firing at the planes futilely, beat a retreat.

In Haifa, according to reports late last night, the blast set off in Iraq Street by four Jews disguised as Britons was followed by some eight more explosions and a general free-for-all engagement. The action continued intermittently for most of the night with damage and casualties believed to be high.

A total of 1,500 Jewish immigrants entered Palestine between Feb. 15 and March 14, it was officially announced today. Half of the immigration certificates were allocated to the detainees on Cyprus, while 338 were distributed to DP's in the British zone of Germany, 398 were given out by the Jewish Agency's Immigration Department and 14 were set aside for visaless refugees who arrived in January. At the same time the government announced that it was closing its immigration offices in Tiberias, Haibus, Gaza and Nathanya "because of the impending withdrawal of the administration."

The Palestine Government also announced today that food supplies will be available for at least two months after May 15. The announcement added that negotiations for obtaining food supplies to extend beyond July 15 have not yet been completed.

S. ABANDONMENT OF PARTITION HAS NOT CHANGED BRITAIN'S PALESTINE POLICY, BEVIN SAYS

LONDON, March 23. (JTA) -- "The British Government has not changed its policy on Palestine despite the abandonment of partition by the United States, Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin told the House of Commons today. "Neither does anything that the Assembly of the United Nations may do affect our coming out of Palestine," he said.

The Foreign Minister injected his remarks in a Commons debate in which Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech-Jones reiterated that Britain would end the Palestine mandate May 15 and evacuate its troops by Aug. 1. "Britain is ready to hand the Mandate over to whatever body the U.N. decided on," Bevin declared.

Earlier, Creech-Jones asserted that it was easy to blame Britain for the present Palestine situation, but it was also easy to forget that the U.N. Palestine Commission was charged with a responsibility that it did not have the means of discharging--a task which he called "somewhat unreal."

The U.N. resolution paid little heed to the "enormous problem" which confronted the Palestine Government not only in winding up its administration of the country, but also in the maintenance of law and order, he said. He denied the allegation that Britain had behaved disrespectfully to the U.N., declaring that the government had tried to meet every wish of the Palestine Commission.

Although the Cabinet yesterday discussed the present Palestine situation, the question of the U.S. trusteeship proposal was not raised, a Foreign Office spokesman said today. He added that it is not likely to be discussed in its present form, since it is not precise enough.

Persistent rumors are circulating here that one or "more precise" forms of trusteeship that Britain would be interested in considering would be to offer Britain the role of trustee under United Nations sponsorship.

CONGRESSIONAL REVOLT AGAINST U.S. SWITCH ON PALESTINE PARTITION GAINS MOMENTUM

WASHINGTON, March 23. (JTA) -- The Congressional revolt against the Truman Administration's reversal on Palestine gained momentum today as a second bill to lift the embargo on arms shipments to the Jews in Palestine was introduced by Rep. Emanuel Celler of New York and several other Congressmen played the Administration position.

Meanwhile, Rep. Arthur G. Klein, who was scheduled to introduce a bill today calling for an investigation of the State Department office responsible for Palestine policy, also urged the House to give the investigators instructions to check on the relations between the Arabian American Oil Company and the National Security Council. He also asked for an examination of the role of Dillon Reade and Company and other banking houses in the Middle East.

Republican Rep. Kenneth B. Keating of New York demanded that the President furnish Congress with "facts to replace surmise and rumor" to explain the shift in U.S. policy. He charged that the reversal was "underknuckling to force by Hitler's tool, the infamous Mufti and his Arab gangsters." He called on Congress to protest the U.S. change and to urge Britain to open a port for the immigration of homeless Jews from Europe.

(At a press conference in Albany today Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, Republican Presidential aspirant, assailed the Administration for "bungling" in originally favoring partition but not "thinking through the means of carrying it out." He added: "I prayerfully hope that a sound solution which will preserve the objective of a Jewish homeland and a place for the displaced persons will now be developed. Asked if he meant a U.N. trusteeship, he replied, "That's the proposal now being worked on.")

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CHANGES EXPECTED IN MAKE-UP OF JEWISH COMMUNAL BODIES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

PRAGUE, March 23. (JTA) -- Further changes are expected in the make-up of the Jewish Actions Committee organized in the Council of Jewish Communities of Bohemia-Moravia and the Prague community, it was learned today. It is also highly possible that another reshuffle will take place within the membership of the executive board of the Council.

Meanwhile, the Jewish Actions Committee has called on the Prague district actions committee not to set up actions bodies in all the Jewish communities throughout Czechoslovakia, but to permit the Prague Jewish group to check on the political "reliability" of the members of the various communal organizations. It also urged that any local Jewish Actions Committees which had been organized be dissolved.

The Central Actions Committee here has proclaimed the government's adherence to a program of complete religious liberty for all persons and has asked all denominations to pledge their support to the government. The actions body of the Prague group has expelled all lawyers who voted for the expulsion of Jewish advocates after the signing of the Munich Pact in 1938.

RUMANIAN ZIONISTS PLEDGE SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT BLOC IN FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS

BUCHAREST, March 23. (JTA) -- Despite the fact that none of the five Jews nominated by the Government Bloc to represent Jewish parties as such are Zionists, a delegation representing the executive of the Rumanian Zionist Organization today told representatives of the bloc that the Zionists would support the government coalition in the forthcoming national elections. Zionist speakers will address rallies in the Jewish community and the Zionist organization will issue a manifesto calling on its members to vote for the bloc, the Zionist leaders revealed.

The second volume of a "black book" of the sufferings of the Jews in wartime Rumania has been published. The 500-page volume, which includes hundreds of official photographs and reproductions of government orders concerning Jews, deals particularly with the plight of some 450,000 Jews who were deported to concentration camps in Transnistria where 350,000 of them perished.

The central synagogue here was filled to overflow during a meeting called by the Zionist organization to protest recent events in Palestine, particularly the blasting of Jewish Agency headquarters in Jerusalem. Besides representatives of the Zionist federation, the audience heard speakers from the Jewish Democratic Party, the Federation of Jewish Communities and a Histadruth representative from Palestine.

N.Y. RABBI NAMED LIAISON OFFICER BETWEEN AMG AND JEWISH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY IN GERMANY

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- The appointment of Rabbi Simon G. Kramer, of New York, as liaison officer between the American Military Government and the religious Jewish community in Germany was announced here today by the Rabbinical Council of America. He was selected for the post by the Synagogue Council of America at the request of the U.S. Government.

Rabbi Kramer will leave for Germany on April 4. "The continuous policy of re-educating the German population in the ways of democracy and of laying the spiritual foundation upon which to build a new and free society is the clearest indication of the U.S. Government's policy of building for peace," he said today. Rabbi Kramer is vice-president of the Synagogue Council of America and a member of the Committee on Army-Navy Religious Activities of the Jewish Welfare Board.

IRISH JEWS APPLY TO GOVERNMENT FOR PERMISSION TO JOIN WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

ISTANBUL, March 23. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Turkey has applied to the Turkish Government for permission to become affiliated with the World Jewish Congress, it was reported today by the Chief Rabbinate here, which is the representative body of Turkish Jewry. To date the Government has not yet acted on the application, which was submitted some time ago.

Meanwhile, it was learned that Jewish communal leaders in this city will meet shortly with the mayor of Istanbul for the purpose of acquainting him with the programs and activities of the W.J.C. and with the reasons of the Jewish community in Turkey for wanting to become affiliated with it.

JEWS IN EUROPE SEE VOCATIONAL TRAINING AS AIDING IMMIGRATION TO PALESTINE, BACKER SAYS

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- "The Jews of Europe see vocational training as the best means of facilitating their immigration to Palestine and other countries, and this is one of the reasons that explains the tremendous growth of the work of ORT throughout Europe," George Backer, president of the American ORT Federation and of the World ORT Union, declared here today following his return from Paris where he attended a World ORT Conference.

Mr. Backer disclosed that the Joint Distribution Committee had renewed its agreement to finance the ORT program in Europe in 1948 with an allocation up to \$2,400,000. He emphasized that the "Jews of Europe are anxious to leave Europe -- the continent that has again become darkened by war clouds, political chaos and insecurity."

Aaron B. Tart, executive vice-president of the American ORT, who returned from a two-month tour of ORT installations in France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, reported that the ORT program in Europe now offers vocational training to 20,000 Jews. Half of these are in the U.S. and British zones of Germany, he said, adding "it is the hope of the trainees to utilize the skills gained in the ORT schools upon their immigration to Palestine and the North and South American countries and so contribute to the industrial development of their newly adopted lands."

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT URGED BY UNITED ZIONIST COUNCIL TO SUPPORT U.N. PALESTINE PARTITION

MONTREAL, March 23. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Mackenzie King and Minister for External Affairs Louis St. Laurent were urged today by the United Zionist Council of Canada to stand by the United Nations Palestine partition decision.

In a telegram signed by Samuel J. Zacks, president, the Council declared that the United States reversal of partition has "shocked the Jews of Canada." The message pointed out that the partition scheme was not given a chance to demonstrate its workability and efficiency.

LABOR ZIONIST GROUPS IN U.S. CALL FOR IMMEDIATE PROCLAMATION OF JEWISH STATE

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- Branding the United States reversal on the U.N. Palestine partition decision "the last straw," four Labor Zionist organizations last night issued a joint statement calling for the immediate proclamation of a Jewish State in Palestine under the provisional government proposed by the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Council. The statement was issued by the Labor Zionist Organization of America, the Jewish National Workers Alliance, the Pioneer Women's Organization and Hahonim.