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TRUMAN SAYS PALESTINE TRUSTEESHIP PLAN AIMS TO AVOID WAR; CALLS FOR ARAB-JEWISH TRUCE

WASHINGTON, March 25. (JTA) -- President Truman and Secretary of State George C. Marshall today declared that the U.S. proposal for placing Palestine under international trusteeship aims to avoid bloodshed which might lead to war and involve the United States.

Truman emphasized that "trusteeship was proposed only after we exhausted every effort to find a way to carry out partition by peaceful means." Trusteeship, he stated, is not proposed as a substitute for the partition plan, but as "an effort to fill the vacuum soon to be created by the termination of the mandate on May 15."

The President revealed that he is instructing Warren R. Austin, head of the American delegation at the United Nations, to urge upon the Security Council "in the strongest terms" that representatives of Jews and Arabs be called immediately to the Council table to arrange for a truce in Palestine. "With such a truce and such a trusteeship," he said, "a peaceful settlement is yet possible; without them, open warfare is just over the horizon."

Puts Truce Above Immigration: Believes Jewish Government May Not Be Needed

Answering questions at his press conference, after he read his prepared statement on Palestine, Truman said that a truce at this time was a practical possibility, and otherwise he would not advocate it. Asked if there were any alternatives if the other countries refused to accept trusteeship, the President replied that he could not answer that question. It was necessary to wait and see, he declared. He stressed the necessity for establishing a truce before anything else is done.

President Truman's answers to numerous questions put to him by the correspondents attending the press conference -- one of the largest in many months -- brought out the following picture:

1. The position of the President with regard to Jewish immigration into Palestine has not changed, but he believes that the first thing to do is restore peace in the country and arrange a settlement that will halt the bloodshed there.
2. The President hopes that trusteeship would produce the kind of peaceful settlement that would result in there not being any need for the proclamation of the Jewish Government.
3. The President believes that American troops would not necessarily be used to help enforce trusteeship in Palestine. The U.S. policy, he said, is to back up the U.N. trusteeship by all possible means, but that does not necessarily mean sending American troops to Palestine.
4. The President does not think that the U.N. would offer the Palestine trusteeship to the United States. He avoided giving a direct answer to a question as

whether the United States would accept the role of trustee if assigned to it by the United Nations.

5. The President would expect the British to maintain order in Palestine until August 15, but he made it clear at the press conference that since he is not running the British Government he does not know whether Britain is ready to agree to it. There was a bitter note in his remark about Britain.

Marshall Avoids Discussion on Force Required to Implement Trusteeship

Secretary Marshall, who held his press conference one hour after Truman expressed his view to the press, said that the President made a very clear statement which he would not complicate by additional remarks at this time. He limited himself to declaring that the effort for trusteeship for Palestine is to avoid trouble which otherwise seems inevitable.

A reporter then started to ask the Secretary a question about Palestine, using the phrase "before the American decision to abandon partition." Marshall abruptly interrupted him at this point, telling the reporter he would have to change that before the Secretary would answer his question. The reporter then rephrased the query: "before the American decision to support trusteeship," U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie pointed out that the General Assembly in its discussion of partition had decided more force would be required to implement trusteeship than partition. The Secretary had no comment-adding, however, he would have to look this up to refresh his memory.

Truman's Statement Evokes Criticism Among Members of Congress

WASHINGTON, March 25. (JTA) -- Congressional reaction to President Truman's explanation of the American shift to trusteeship for Palestine was as unfavorable, among those expressing opinions, as it has been to the actual change of policy.

Senator Robert Taft, of Ohio, majority leader, said: "The President's statement only emphasizes the complete confusion of the Administration policy. The President says that partition had to be abandoned in spite of our previous vigorous support because it could not be carried through 'by the use of American troops.' No one ever proposed that it should be. A U.N. force was proposed but our government refused even to consider it. Now the President says that if his new trusteeship plan is adopted, we must take 'our share of the necessary responsibility,' which must mean American troops as part of a U.N. force to prevent partition."

Senator Tom Connally of Texas, ranking minority member of the Foreign Relations Committee, stated "there should be a truce of course," but declined to comment further, saying he had not had time to read through the President's statement completely.

Senator Owen Brewster, Maine Republican, said: "The President's statement still leaves many questions to be answered and adds another chapter to the curious history of this troubled land."

Senator James Murray of Montana, in a statement apparently written before Mr. Truman's statement was issued, called the American reversal of policy one of the most "shocking retreats in the history of our foreign relations." He accused American oil companies and the oil lobby of having committed the United States to a decision to scuttle the partition plan. "The American reversal on Palestine," he said, "is their greatest victory since Teapot Dome."

Rep. Emanuel Celler of New York said: "Now all is confusion. Who is at the helm," he questioned, "the master or the crew?" He declared the President could show real courage by lifting the arms embargo and recognizing de jure the Jewish State in Palestine.

FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S STATEMENT ON U.S. PROPOSAL FOR PALESTINE TRUSTEESHIP

WASHINGTON, March 25. (JTA) -- The full text of President Truman's statement explaining the U.S. proposal for placing Palestine under the interim trusteeship of the United Nations reads as follows:

"It is vital that the American people have a clear understanding of the position of the United States in the United Nations regarding Palestine.

"This country vigorously supported the plan for partition with economic union recommended by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine and by the General Assembly. We have explored every possibility consistent with the basic principles of the Charter for giving effect to that solution. Unfortunately, it has become clear that the partition plan cannot be carried out at this time by peaceful means. We could not undertake to impose this solution on the people of Palestine by the use of American troops, both on Charter grounds and as a matter of national policy.

"The United Kingdom has announced its firm intention to abandon its mandate in Palestine on May 15. Unless emergency action is taken, there will be no public authority in Palestine on that date capable of preserving law and order. Violence and bloodshed will descend upon the Holy Land. Large-scale fighting among the people of that country will be the inevitable result. Such fighting would infect the entire Middle East and could lead to consequences of the gravest sort involving the peace of this nation and of the world.

"These dangers are imminent. Responsible governments in the United States cannot face this prospect without acting promptly to prevent it. The United States has proposed to the Security Council a temporary United Nations trusteeship for Palestine to provide a government to keep the Peace. Such trusteeship was proposed only after we have exhausted every effort to find a way to carry out partition by peaceful means. Trusteeship is not proposed as a substitute for the partition plan but as an effort to fill the vacuum soon to be created by the termination of the mandate on May 15. The Trusteeship plan does not prejudice the character of the final political settlement. It would establish the conditions of order which are essential to a peaceful solution.

"If we are to avert tragedy in Palestine, an immediate truce must be reached between the Arabs and Jews of that country. I am instructing Ambassador Austin to urge upon the Security Council in the strongest terms that representatives of the Arabs and Jews be called at once to the Council table to arrange such a truce.

"The United States is prepared to lend every appropriate assistance to the United Nations in preventing bloodshed and in reaching a peaceful settlement. If the United Nations agrees to a temporary trusteeship, we must take our share of the necessary responsibility. Our regard for the United Nations, for the peace of the world and for our own self-interest does not permit us to do less.

"With such a truce and such a trusteeship, a peaceful settlement is yet possible; without them, open warfare is just over the horizon. American policy in emergency period is based squarely upon the recognition of this inescapable fact."

BRITISH DENY REPORT U.S. OFFICIALS ARE EN ROUTE TO LONDON TO DISCUSS TRUSTEESHIP

LONDON, March 25. (JTA) -- A Foreign Office spokesman today denied reports that State Department officials are en route to London to discuss the Palestine trusteeship plan with the Foreign Office. At the same time, reliable sources here ruled out the possibility that Britain might take over the proposed U.N. trusteeship of Palestine.

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JEWISH AGENCY REITERATES STAND ON TRUSTEESHIP, TRUCE; ANSWERS TRUMAN'S STATEMENT

LAKE SUCCESS, March 25. (JTA) -- The attitude of the Jewish Agency and of the Arab states towards President Truman's statement supporting international trusteeship for Palestine and calling for an Arab-Jewish truce was outlined here today by the spokesmen of the two involved parties.

A spokesman for the Jewish Agency said that Dr. Abba Hillel Silver had made it quite clear at yesterday's meeting of the Security Council that the Jews of Palestine categorically reject any plan to set up a trusteeship regime for the country even for a short period of time.

With regard to the question of a truce, the spokesman emphasized that the position of the Agency remains the same as outlined in a letter to U.N. Secretary General Trygve Lie on March 17. This letter pointed out that the moment Arab aggression ceases, Jewish armed resistance will also terminate.

"There must, of course, be a clear understanding that the cessation of Arab aggression will also include the stoppage of preparations for future aggression, the evacuation of foreign forces, and the prevention of further incursion of armed bands into Palestine," the letter continued. "It is assumed that any arrangement for a truce will be carried out within the framework of the implementation of the resolution of the General Assembly and in strictest conformity with the timetable provided in that resolution."

Faris El Khoury of Syria, chief Arab spokesman, said it was his opinion that the Arabs would be ready for peace if the Jews would agree to abandon partition and seek another solution of the Palestine problem. Camille Chamoun of Lebanon endorsed El Khoury's stand.

JEWISH AGENCY REQUESTS U.N. TO SEND SCANDINAVIAN TROOPS TO CHECK VIOLENCE IN JERUSALEM

LAKE SUCCESS, March 25. (JTA) -- The U.N. Palestine Commission today received a request from the Jewish Agency to send Scandinavian forces to police the city of Jerusalem against increasing violence.

The forces requested by the Agency are Norwegian and Danish units stationed in Northern Germany as part of the Allied armies of occupation. Having no jurisdiction over them, the Commission advised the Agency to direct its proposal to the U.N. Security Council.

The Palestine Commission does not intend to accord immediate recognition to the Jewish Provisional Government since the position taken by the British Government as Mandatory Power precludes any immediate U.N. action on Provisional Government Councils in Palestine. This was indicated in a letter circulated today by Secretary-General Trygve Lie to member states of the United Nations. However, the Commission is still considering the possibility of recognition for the Jewish Provisional Council of Government after the termination of the Mandate on May 15.

At a press conference today Lie said he had no reaction to President Truman's statement on trusteeship. The U.S. proposal for a trusteeship solution to the Palestine problem took him by complete surprise, he said. He emphasized the astonishing nature of the proposal in view of the complete absence of such a solution either in the special session of the General Assembly on Palestine or at the regular session at which the partition decision was taken.

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PALESTINE PASSPORTS CEASE TO GIVE BRITISH PROTECTION AFTER MAY 15, GOVT. ANNOUNCES

JERUSALEM, March 25. (JTA) -- Palestine passports will cease to give British protection to the bearers after May 15, but will remain valid in order to indicate citizenship, it was officially announced today, revealing British determination to live up the mandate on that date under all circumstances.

The Chief Rabbinate today denied a government report that arrangements have been concluded with the authorities which would enable Jews to attend Passover services at the Wailing Wall. The Jewish Agency has also indicated that nothing is known about such arrangements having been concluded.

Haganah forces today carried out a daring attack on a large triangular formation of Arab guerrillas preparing for an assault on Tirat Zvi in the Beisan valley. Haganah engineer units blew up bridges and roads leading to the settlement while infantry troops raided the Arab village of Kaun, south of Tirat Zvi, capturing the village for two hours and demolishing all houses and strong points used by Arab bands. Later, Haganah units cleared the entire area of Arab guerrillas.

Iraqi and Syrian regulars speeding to the aid of the Arabs were apprehended and beaten off by another Haganah force that inflicted heavy casualties on the troops. All Haganah men returned to their base safely.

12 Arabs Killed in Four-Hour Battle at Jaffa

In another engagement at dawn Haganah men blasted an Arab flour mill in the Manshieh quarter of Jaffa that dominated a considerable section of the Jaffa-Tel Aviv border. Before they succeeded in blowing up the factory, the Jews engaged strong Arab forces in a running four-hour battle in which both sides used mortars and heavy machineguns. British troops assisted the Arabs towards the end of the fighting, Haganah reported. Incomplete reports indicated at least 12 Arabs were killed in the battle.

Meanwhile, a large force of British troops proceeded this morning to Bab el Wad to clear the area of marauding Arabs and to aid the Jews still stranded on the road since yesterday's fierce attack on their convoy. Several of the wounded Jews have already been withdrawn from the area and taken to the Hadassah hospital.

HAGANAH URGES JEWISH D.P. YOUTH IN ITALY TO MOBILIZE; MILITARY COURSES ESTABLISHED

ROME, March 25. (JTA) -- All Jewish refugees in Italian DP and Kibbutz camps between the ages of 17 and 35 have been urged by Haganah representatives in Italy to mobilize for Haganah, it was revealed here today. Haganah instructors have set up brief military courses for Jewish refugee youths in Italy and recently "graduated" a group of 100.

Italian police officials, through the International Refugee Organization, today imposed a curfew on all displaced persons camps in Italy from 8 P.M. to 7 A.M. The action was taken as a result of the growing tensions in Italy in connection with the April 18 national elections.

Meanwhile, despite the recent government announcement that "no arrests of DP's will take place in the future, barring extraordinary circumstances," arrests of Jewish refugees in and around Bari have been occurring daily. Inmates of the Bari transit camp and the nearby Barletta Camp do not leave the camps on Saturdays and Sundays for fear of arrests resulting from political demonstrations that are usually held over the week-end.

