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JEWIS DIE IN ARAB TRAP IN NORTH PALESTINE; TRUCE ARRANGED IN BATTLE NEAR JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, March 26. (JTA) -- Forty-two Jews died in an Arab ambush of a convoy near Naharia, a short distance north of Acre, it was officially reported today in government communique.

The bodies of five of the Arab attackers, estimated to number about 250 men, were discovered near the scene of the massacre. The five vehicles in which the Jews were transporting supplies for remote settlements in the North were found completely destroyed by fire. The Arabs are reported to have used mortars and machine guns in the battle.

The British Army this morning announced that it had arranged a truce with Arab leaders in the Bethlehem district to permit the evacuation of the bodies of eleven Jews killed in a two-day battle between hundreds of Arabs and 95 Haganah men trapped in a convoy of 35 trucks and armored cars. Thirty-five wounded Jews were also included in the evacuation pact. Although the communique did not specify whether the uninjured survivors would also be rescued, all were brought safely into Jerusalem late tonight by a military convoy.

Yesterday's battle, resumed for a short while today, featured the use of Jewish planes in a fighting capacity for the first time in the four-month-old conflict. Four Jewish planes called to the aid of the convoy by radio bombed and strafed the Arab forces continuously until nightfall. They returned this morning. Although there is no exact figure of Arab casualties in the engagement, one Haganah source estimated that about 100 Arabs died and possibly twice as many were wounded.

The battle south of Jerusalem opened early yesterday morning when the Jewish convoy which had brought a huge amount of supplies to the 500-man Haganah garrison of Kfar Etzion and its three satellite colonies attempted to return to Jerusalem by the same route it had used on the trip out. The Arabs had in the meantime thrown up 17 roadblocks between the settlement and Bethlehem and had mustered one of the strongest forces yet seen in the Palestine fighting. Some of the roadblocks were surrounded by good sized mine fields.

Haganah, British Attempts to Rescue Trapped Jews Fail Temporarily

Several of the armored cars leading the convoy were blasted by mines and the entire party was forced to halt and became a target for a heavy concentration of small arms, machine gun and mortar fire. Eventually the Jews were forced to fall back to a small village some five miles southwest of Bethlehem where they arranged their vehicles so as to give them a maximum of protection from the Arab projectiles. Here they managed to hold off continuous waves of attackers all through the night.

Haganah headquarters in Jerusalem, which was in radio contact with the defenders at all times, made several attempts to relieve the trapped men, sending rescue parties from Kfar Etzion and Jerusalem. However, the heavy concentration of mines on the road plus the advent of darkness forced the Jews to give up rescue attempts until

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morning. The British also abandoned efforts to save the men yesterday after one of their armored cars hit a mine. Today, 200 soldiers took up positions near the scene of the battle but did not interfere until after the truce had been arranged.

An additional macabre note was struck in Jerusalem today where a crowd of Jews paraded with the head of one of the Jews killed in the Kfar Etzion fight. British troops and police witnessed the barbaric spectacle but made no attempt to interfere.

British Planes Spot Blockade Runner with 800 Jews Aboard

Jerusalem itself was the scene of a number of attacks during the week-end when the Arabs most active in the area surrounding the Jewish section of the Old City. At least four Arabs were killed in the exchange of shots and several Jews were picked off by snipers. One woman was killed when British troops fired on Jewish positions. The British suffered eight casualties including one non-commissioned officer killed when one of their patrols was caught in the line of fire between the Arabs and Jews.

At least two other Jewish convoys were attacked in northern Palestine yesterday and today. One raid took place near Safad and the other near Afulah. Only one Jew was reported killed and several Arabs are known to be dead in these actions.

In the midst of the fighting tonight it was reported that British planes had spotted a blockade runner off the coast of Palestine and that destroyers had been detached to intercept it. Jewish sources believe that the vessel is the Yechi Am (Long Live the People) with some 800 persons aboard.

(In Washington it was announced over the week-end that only air mail letters to Palestine will be accepted henceforth. The Post Office Department, acting on a request of the British Government, suspended all "surface mail" and parcel post to Palestine, but said all out-going surface and air mail services will be continued from Palestine to this country.)

BRITISH DENY U.S. ASKED THEM TO REMAIN IN PALESTINE; CABINET MEETING TOMORROW

LONDON, March 28. (JTA) -- A Foreign Office spokesman again denied this week-end that the State Department has either formally or informally contacted the British Government with a view to continuing the Palestine Mandate after May 15 or suspending the military evacuation.

Press reports today, however, said that an urgent meeting of the Cabinet has been summoned for Tuesday to consider such a proposal. Emanuel Shinwell, Secretary of State for War, speaking in Durham last night, said that the British people and British troops stationed in Palestine would look with disfavor on any suggestion to change the evacuation schedule. He expressed the hope that the Jews and Arabs could "come together to avert a calamity."

DR. NAHUM GOLDMANN LEAVES TODAY FOR EMERGENCY MEETING OF ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, will leave tomorrow for the emergency meeting of the Zionist Actions Committee in Jerusalem, which is scheduled to open next week-end. He will travel via London and Paris.

A deputation of Z.O.A. leaders is expected to leave for the conference by air at the end of the week. Among them will be Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Dr. Israel Goldstein, Daniel Frisch, Elishu Stone, Carl Röss, Dr. Samuel Margoshes and Abraham A. Redelheim. Theodore Resnikoff, Mexican Zionist leader, is now in New York en route to the parley.

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AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE TAKES ISSUE WITH TRUMAN CALL FOR PALESTINE TRUSTEESHIP

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- Declaring that the Security Council of the United Nations must take immediate steps to halt "the invasion of Palestine by Arab countries" and restore order in the Holy Land, the American Jewish Committee today expressed "keen regret at the modification" in the United States position on the U.N. Assembly resolution for partition. The statement was issued on behalf of the American Jewish Committee by former Governor Herbert H. Lehman, honorary vice-president; former Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president, and Jacob Blaustein, chairman of the executive committee, in reply to President Truman's call for a trusteeship.

The resolution of the U.N. General Assembly is "still binding," the A.J.C. spokesman said, and the change in our government's position has resulted in a loss of international prestige by the United States and has been a blow to the United Nations. They declared that the President's statement of March 25 envisaged the necessity of the use of force "to implement even a temporary trusteeship."

Asserting that they understood and applauded the desire of the President for a peaceful solution, the Committee officers continued: "We urge that the United Nations cannot with dignity or safety be put in the position of arriving at a decision and then submitting to internal and external violence in Palestine to thwart it. Peace will not result from condoning violence. It can only be achieved by suppressing violence."

The clear-cut direct course, they insisted, "is now to advocate that the Security Council should discharge the obligations imposed on it by the United Nations Charter and summarily put an end to the invasion of Palestine by Arab countries and restore order within Palestine."

They said that the American Jewish Committee has always viewed, as the essence of any Palestine policy, "the preservation of the right of adequate Jewish immigration into Palestine, the right of land ownership by Jews and the preservation of the security and well being of that country." The statement continued:

"We shall continue to impress upon our Government the urgency and the righteousness of the fundamental objectives above stated and the still-binding resolution of the United Nations Assembly which was adopted to achieve them, and for which the President states he is not suggesting a substitute." The American Jewish Committee officers also emphasized the necessity of a government in Palestine which is friendly to the democratic nations, adding that the "great majority of the Jews of Palestine are devoted to the principles of democracy."

Council for Judaism Calls U.S. Proposal "Best Course" for Peace

The American Council for Judaism, in a statement made public here over the week-end, told President Truman that the American proposals to the Security Council represented the "best course to bring peace to the Holy Land" and voiced its appreciation for his efforts to end the bloodshed and strife. In a letter to the chief executive signed by Lessing J. Rosenwald, president of the organization, the Council said that developments since the General Assembly approved partition of Palestine had demonstrated conclusively that any attempt to enforce the plan would lead to disaster.

The Council expressed the hope that a sincere attempt will be made to evolve a workable and peaceful plan for the ultimate political form of the Holy Land, "led by men of moderation who appreciate the futility of continued hostility." Under the government's proposal to the United Nations, the Council anticipated "it still may be necessary to employ armed force in Palestine," and added: "If so, we could justify the utilization of such forces for the quelling of intransigent groups with the objective of establishing peace and harmony." The Council described the government's action as a "clear demonstration that the interests of the United States as well as those of the United Nations are being given primary consideration."

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ARGENTINE JEWS GIVE PERONIST CANDIDATES MORE VOTES THAN NOMINEES OF OTHER PARTIES

BUENOS AIRES, March 28. (JTA) -- Final tabulations in the recently-concluded national elections in Argentina indicated today that the victorious Peronist party received more votes in Jewish areas than any of its rival political groups. Jewish circles here have expressed satisfaction with the results of the balloting.

It was also disclosed that the anti-Semitic party, Alianza Libertadora Nacionalista, received less votes than in the 1946 election. One of the Peronist candidates -- Father Virgilio Filippo, generally regarded as a leading anti-Semitic figure in the country -- received the least amount of votes of any candidate on the Peron ticket. Many non-Jews, as well as Jews, struck his name off the ballot.

Deputy Silvano Santanger, a Radical deputy from Entre Rios province who is considered friendly toward the Jews, was re-elected. On the other hand, a Buenos Aires Radical deputy with anti-Semitic views, A. Cattaneo, has also been re-elected, although with fewer votes than any other Radical candidate.

ANTI-JEWISH SLOGANS SHOUTED DURING EASTER PARADE BY BOLIVIAN CATHOLICS

LA PAZ, Bolivia, March 28. (JTA) -- Cries of "Down with the Jews" were heard here this week-end among crowds gathered in the main streets to watch Catholic parades and ceremonies in connection with Easter. Some of the participants in the parade, which was led by several priests, also shouted anti-Protestant slogans.

CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT, TRADE UNION LEADERS RECEIVE PALESTINE JEWISH LABOR DELEGATION

PRAGUE, March 28. (JTA) -- A Histadruth delegation of three Palestinian Jewish leaders this week-end called on several high government officials and national trade union leaders to convey the greetings of the Palestinian Jewish labor movement to the Czechoslovak workers.

The Jews were told that the new Czech Government will do everything to increase the bonds of friendship between the two peoples. A pledge that the government would continue its present favorable policy toward Palestine and will not interfere with Czech Jews desiring to go to Palestine and participate in the reconstruction of the Jewish state, was also made.

JEWS IN ITALY PROTEST TO TRUMAN, TRYGVE LIE OVER U.S. ABANDONMENT OF PARTITION

ROME, March 28. (JTA) -- The Central Committee of Jewish Refugees in Italy and the Union of Jewish Communities in Italy have cabled protests to President Truman and U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie over America's abandonment of the U.N. Palestine partition decision.

"The U.S. withdrawal from the historic decision of the U.N. regarding Palestine signifies a heavy blow both to the United Nations and to the Jewish people in the most tragic moment in its struggle for existence," the message to Truman declared. "The Jewish refugees appeal to you -- do not commit an act towards the most unfortunate of all people that might cast a dark shadow on the conscience of the American people."

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS CONDEMN U.S. ABANDONMENT OF PARTITION; PLEDGE AID TO JEWISH STATE

JOHANNESBURG, March 28. (JTA) -- The South African Board of Jewish Deputies and the Zionist Federation here this week-end termed America's abandonment of partition a betrayal. "The United States has surrendered to threats of intimidation," a joint statement declared, adding that the U.S. is "giving direct encouragement to aggression and resistance against the United Nations."

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U.J.A. SETS APRIL AS "FREEDOM MONTH" FOR INTENSIFIED DRIVE; 3,500 CITIES PARTICIPATE

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- Close to 3,500 Jewish communities throughout the United States will mark April as "Freedom Month" during which intensified efforts on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal's 1948 drive for \$250,000,000 will be launched, it was announced here today at U.J.A. national headquarters.

In a statement designating "Freedom Month," which will officially open next Sunday on the Eternal Light radio program, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., U.J.A. General Chairman, said: "It is particularly fitting that April be observed as 'Freedom Month.' April and freedom have a long and historic association in the history of the Jewish people and the American nation.

"April is the month of Passover which celebrates the liberation of the Jewish people from enslavement. It is the month that heard the first shot in the American revolution -- which sounded the tocsin of freedom for men throughout the world. April of 1789 saw the convening of the first U.S. Congress and April of 1943 -- five short years ago -- witnessed the heroic struggle of the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto against the might of the German Army," he stated.

Meanwhile, it was announced here that eight Jewish communities have "added a brilliant chapter to Jewish history with contributions unparalleled in generosity in the history of fund-raising in the United States." The communities, which led in the U.J.A.'s emergency drive for \$50,000,000 last month, are: Philadelphia, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington, Indianapolis, Des Moines and Dallas. At a "Big Gifts" meeting in Philadelphia, 240 persons pledged a total of \$2,650,000 to the U.J.A., with Walter H. Annenberg, publisher of the Philadelphia Inquirer, making the largest single pledge of \$350,000. The city's "Big Gifts" pledge is approximately double the amount contributed last year by the same group.

At a similar Pittsburgh meeting, a total of \$1,122,000 was raised with the Kaufman Department Store pledging \$150,000 and the Charles J. Rosenbloom family \$100,000. In Des Moines, an initial "Big Gifts" meeting realized a total of \$352,850 in pledges, as compared with \$190,025 last year. The Des Moines drive is under the leadership of three young World War II veterans, Frank B. Sanders, Morton S. Boakey and Harold A. Goldman.

MACCABI WORLD UNION DECIDES TO ASK AFFILIATION WITH WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

NEW YORK, March 28. (JTA) -- The Maccabi World Union has decided to ask its world executive to affiliate with the World Jewish Congress, it was announced here today by Dr. Ignace Schwarzbart, head of the Congress' Organization Department. The decision was taken at a conference in Basle this week attended by delegates from Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and the U.S., British and French zones in Germany.

DR. JACOB KLATZKIN, EDITOR OF ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA, DIES IN SWITZERLAND AT 66

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, March 28. (JTA) -- Dr. Jacob Klatzkin, noted Jewish scholar and author, died this week-end at his home in Vevey, near here. He was 66 years old.

Editor of the German-language Encyclopedia Judaica, Dr. Klatzkin was at work on the tenth volume of the reference work when he was forced to flee Germany when the Nazis came to power. He translated Spinoza's "Ethics" and was the author of numerous scholarly works, written in several languages. Born in Lithuania, Klatzkin was the scion of a rabbinical family. He came to the United States in 1941 and became a citizen in 1946. He lectured at the College of Jewish Studies in Chicago.

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