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TRUMAN REPORTED SEEKING AID OF POPE TO SECURE ARAB-JEWISH TRUCE IN PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, March 31. (JTA) -- Myron C. Taylor, President Truman's personal representative to the Vatican, who is now en route to Rome, may be carrying with him a letter from the President to Pope Pius XII in connection with Truman's appeal for an Arab-Jewish truce in Palestine, it was indicated here today.

Asked for confirmation of this report, Charles G. Ross, secretary to the President, said that Ambassador Taylor may have such a letter, but he did not know, and could not say, whether there is any connection between Taylor's going to Rome and the appeal for a truce in Palestine.

40 KILLED, 61 INJURED IN TRAIN BLAST IN PALESTINE; 40 ARABS KILLED IN BATTLES

JERUSALEM, March 31. (JTA) -- At least 40 persons were killed and 61 injured when an express train bound for Haifa from Cairo hit a landmine near the Jewish settlement of Benyamina, on the coastal plain of Samaria. The engine and the first four coaches were derailed. Most of the casualties were Arabs. About 40 British troops were also on the train. A road curfew for Jewish vehicles was immediately imposed.

Fighting between Jews and Arabs continued today in the Old City of Jerusalem, in the Remath Hakovesh area near Tel Aviv, and in the vicinity of Rishon L'Zion, one of the oldest Jewish settlements in the country. At least 40 Arabs lost their lives in scattered fighting today, while many were wounded. The number of Jewish casualties was small.

The battle in the Old City started after the Arabs blew up a Jewish house there. Haganah members in the quarter counter-attacked, driving the raiders from their strongholds. Eleven Arabs were killed and 17 wounded. British troops had previously evacuated this area in the Old City.

The battle near Ramath Hakovesh resulted in the killing of three Arabs and one Jew. It lasted two days during which a strong Iraqi band continuously attacked the settlement and the nearby Jewish colony of Kalmania. The Arabs were finally forced to retreat.

Eight Arabs were killed in the vicinity of Rishon L'Zion by Irgun forces, while three were killed in the center of Jerusalem today when Haganah men returned the fire of Arab snipers shooting from the Moslem cemetery. Several Arabs were killed and wounded in a fight which led to the capture by Haganah forces of a bus carrying Arabs from Hebron to Jerusalem.

About 30 Arabs were killed and wounded when Haganah forces blew up a bridge over which three trucks carrying armed Arabs were to pass. All three trucks were destroyed in the explosion, while three Jewish engineers lost their lives in the operation.

ARABS DETERMINED TO CUT OFF JERUSALEM; ERECT NEW ROADBLOCKS; BRITISH REPORTED WORRIED

JERUSALEM, March 31. (JTA) -- Determined to cut off Jerusalem from the rest of the country, Arabs today erected 15 strong roadblocks near Babel Wad on the main road from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. The Palestine Government, under strong pressure from London to keep the roads open for traffic, is reported to be worried over this action.

It was reported, without confirmation, that British military authorities have begun negotiations with Arab leaders in the Babel Wad area to remove the roadblocks and open the road to Jewish vehicles, on condition that the Jews do not proceed in armed convoys. Army headquarters refused to comment on this report.

Declaring that they are unaware of any move on the part of the authorities to negotiate a truce on traffic, Arab leaders today indicated that they will not accept such a pact unless the Jews are ready for "unconditional surrender." Their statement was preceded by a comment made by a government spokesman who, discussing the security situation, said: "The Haganah is a menace to peace in the Old City. Without the Haganah, the government would be responsible for security."

Meanwhile, Jewish institutions here were studying today a plan submitted by Richard Graves, head of the Municipal Commission, to establish separate Jewish and Arab municipal committees in Jerusalem to replace the present administration of the city. The plan calls for the setting up of the two committees as soon as possible, with Graves acting as liaison between the Arab and Jewish groups, or possibly as chairman of both.

The Official Gazette today published an announcement stating that from now on it will not be necessary for local municipal councils in Palestine to submit their budgets to the district commissioners for approval. This action was interpreted here as additional proof of Britain's intention to surrender the Mandate on May 15.

Agudah Appeals to Church Leaders to Seek Stoppage of Jerusalem Strife

LONDON, March 31. (JTA) -- The rapidly deteriorating situation in Jerusalem, today prompted the Agudah World Executive here to officially approach the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Apostolic Delegate in Britain with a view towards obtaining intervention in Palestine by the heads of the Protestant Churches in Britain and the United States and the Vatican, which would bring an end to hostilities in Jerusalem.

Such intervention, it was pointed out by Agudah leaders, is not intended to prejudice the present political situation, but merely to bring about a cessation of bloodshed in the Holy City. Both Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Mgr. Godfrey, Apostolic Delegate, expressed their fullest preparedness to further the Agudah's proposals in every way.

FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE CONFIRMS ARMS SALE TO LEBANON; SAYS VALUE TO DATE IS ONLY \$87,000

PARIS, March 31. (JTA) -- A Foreign Office spokesman here today confirmed that the French Government has permitted a French armaments firm to sell and deliver a quantity of arms to Lebanon, but added that the total value of the shipments to date is only \$87,000.

Yesterday an arms company admitted to the J.T.A. that it had received orders for \$20,000,000 worth of mortars, artillery and machineguns from Lebanon. A government official explained that the sale was in "fulfillment" of a year-old Franco-Lebanese pact.

WORLD WILL PERISH IF U.N. DOES NOT ACT QUICKLY TO SETTLE PALESTINE ISSUE, LASKI WARNS

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA) -- There will be massacres of unarmed Jews from Algiers across Africa to Iraq and Lebanon, if the United Nations fails to solve the Palestine problem, Prof. Harold J. Laski warned tonight in an address at the opening session of the four-day convention of the American Jewish Congress.

"If the men who rule us let things drift outside the Middle East as they have let things drift within its boundaries, there will be no Jewish problem because there will be no Jews," the former chairman of the British Labor Party said. "The world will not listen to your warning and mine. Let us pray that it may recognize swiftly that the echo of the first guns fired in Palestine after May 15 will echo around the world, for they will be the first shots fired in that third global war which will end, for our generation and our children's, the prospect of civilized life."

The rulers in Europe and America, Prof. Laski continued, should understand that those who leave the Jews to die for a dream are themselves destined to perish not for a dream but for a nightmare full of sound and fury, but without meaning for those whom it will destroy. He termed the present state of affairs in Palestine as "one of the most cynical betrayals in history" and feared there will be "fatal inactivity" in the United Nations on solving the Palestine problem. He emphasized that he does not doubt that in the event of such a situation, the Jews in Palestine will fight.

Attacks Role of Britain and United States in Palestine Situation

Bitterly attacking the "British abdication from moral obligation" and the "immature confusion of American leadership" with regard to Palestine, Prof. Laski said that "first and most responsible" for the present developments in Palestine is the British Government. "It sacrificed its honor--and the Jews--to oil and strategy," he declared. "It sheltered itself behind a Jewish terrorism it itself largely evoked, and it used all its influence to conceal from the British people the character and quantum of the terrorism in order to escape from the legal and moral responsibilities it had inescapably incurred."

"But," Prof. Laski continued, "I think the American Government must bear its share of guilt--less heavy than ours, but heavy. It has exercised power and influence without an atom of responsibility. It has been guilty of not letting its left hand know what its right hand was doing. It has made this grave issue the football of vote-catching strategy. It has been confused, inept, reckless and timid at the same time. It has tried to assure everyone of its determination and made the situation far more critical by making its irresolution obvious and painful."

"I think we Jews cannot escape our share of blame--British Jews because they did not see the pattern of power politics in which Palestine was one thread; American Jews because they thought that successful lobbying meant the genuine acceptance of vital principles and were too often as eager to deceive themselves as to confront the hard facts; Palestine Jews who suffered great provocation and witnessed the enactment of a horrible tragedy, but did not prevail upon an indefensible group among them to desist from using indefensible means for an end to which they were never proportionate; and world Jewry because it failed to convince the Arab masses that the development of a Jewish homeland would be an Arab liberation as well as a Jewish achievement."

Pointing out that the British Labor Party had pledged itself to abrogate the British White Paper which restricted Jewish immigration and land acquisition in Palestine, Prof. Laski charged the present Labor Government with not observing its

pledges. He accused British Prime Minister Ernest Bevin of playing "a sinister role in the story" and said that Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech-Jones "became a passive instrument of Cabinet purposes" with regard to the Palestine issue.

"It is probably too late now to prevent the outbreak of hostilities which are both unnecessary and futile," he declared. "If they continue they will destroy more than Palestine. For the victims of the disagreements between the Great Powers destroy their masters as well as themselves. There will be the announcement of a Jewish state in Palestine. There will be massacres of unarmed Jews from Algiers across Africa to Iraq and Lebanon. Evil men will watch those graves filled that Hitler left empty. That is the moment when it may still be possible to awaken the conscience of the world. That will either be the fall of a final darkness or the first gleam of day.

"The Jews have no alternative but the search for life," Prof. Laski pointed out. "If Britain, America and Russia have determined that they must fight to live, they will fight. It need not be so. It ought not to have been so. There is a national solution to this issue. But it cannot be applied unless we start to build world peace. It cannot be applied if we value oil and strategic routes more than the spirit of man."

BRITAIN MAY SHARE IN PALESTINE ADMINISTRATION; WILL OFFER PROPOSALS AFTER MAY 15

LONDON, March 31. (JTA) -- The first indication that Britain may agree to share responsibility with other nations in administering Palestine under United Nations sponsorship, providing America's attempt to establish an Arab-Jewish truce succeeds, were seen today in what are believed to be inspired reports appearing in London newspapers.

Although the government is determined to surrender the Mandate and complete the military evacuation on schedule, the reports say, there is no longer any attempt to hide the fact that Britain may not yet be "finished with Palestine." If President Truman's truce efforts succeed and the Jews and Arabs accept new U.N. proposals for the future government of Palestine, then Sir Alexander Cadogan, head of the British delegation at the U.N., will be instructed to offer Britain's assistance in administering Palestine under the new set-up, the papers predict.

The papers emphasize, however, that British troops must be withdrawn from Palestine before any share of the responsibility for governing the country can be accepted. Furthermore, other powers must join in carrying out the U.N. plan and the Jews and Arabs must agree on whatever proposals the U.N. adopts.

After May 15, the reports add, Britain will technically have no responsibility for Palestine other than that shared by other U.N. member states. It is possible, therefore, that the British may offer their own "constructive recommendations" for a settlement in Palestine, after the Mandate expires.

U.N. COMMISSION ADOPTS PLAN FOR PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT IN JEWISH STATE

PALESTINE SUCCESS, March 31. (JTA) -- The U.N. Palestine Commission today adopted a working plan for setting up a Provisional Council of Government in the Jewish state. The plan, proposed by Eduardo Morgan of Panama, makes it clear that the government will not assume authority before the termination of the Mandate.

The Commission today received a request from the head of its advance party in Jerusalem, Dr. Pablo Ascarate, for a police expert to set up a supplementary police force of 1,000 men to safeguard the city's holy places. The Commission decided to assume this responsibility, with financial support from the U.N. \$2,000,000 Palestine fund, since the Trusteeship Council has failed to set up such machinery.

U.J.A. LAUNCHES "FREEDOM MONTH" TODAY WITH \$100,000,000 GOAL FOR THIRTY-DAY PERIOD

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal-proclaimed "Freedom Month" starts tomorrow in all Jewish communities throughout the country for the purpose of raising \$100,000,000 during April towards the U.J.A.'s \$250,000,000 campaign goal to provide relief and rehabilitation for Jews in Europe and resettlement opportunities in Palestine, as well as aid for Jewish refugees reaching the United States.

More than 3,500 communities will observe "Freedom Month" with special meetings and rallies. The nation-wide observance will be climaxed with a special United Jewish Appeal Sabbath proclaimed by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the U.S. and Canada to be marked on the first day of Passover, April 24.

PROTESTANT CHURCH EDITORS URGED TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE PART IN COMBATTING ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA) -- The charge that the press of the Protestant Church in the United States is not sufficiently active in helping combat anti-Semitism in this country was made here today by Rev. Dr. Carl Hermann Voss at the annual meeting of the Associated Church Press, an organization of Protestant Church editors. Dr. Voss is extension secretary of the Church Peace Union.

"The church press," he told the gathering, "has not been vigilant enough in exposing the 'enemy within the gates'--the vicious anti-Jewish propagandist who is on the pro-fascist fringe of the church and works through such pernicious periodicals as Harvey Springer's Western Voice, Carl McIntire's Christian Beacon, William D. Herstrom's Bible News Flashes, Gerald B. Winrod's Defender, Bob Shuler's Methodist Challenge, and Gerald L.K. Smith's two publications, The Cross and Flag and the Letter. We may think this infantile fringe is numerically insignificant, but we forget they, whether on editorial pages or in the pulpit, are an extremely dangerous influence on American life, especially because they reflect the prejudices and perversions of the Protestant middle class mind."

Dr. Voss also pointed out that the church press "has done an injustice to Zionist aspirations" by not presenting accurate facts about the Zionist cause and its case. "We have neither completely understood nor correctly interpreted the needs of the Jews for a state of their own," he said. The Protestant press is not aware of what anti-Jewish agitation means in terms of undermining the values of Western civilization, he charged.

"The church press has not created among Christians a sense of contrition and repentance for the inescapable fact that anti-Semitism is fostered by Christians," Dr. Voss pointed out. "Just how much have we written in the church press about the sin of quota clauses in our colleges, universities, and professional schools? About racial and religious restrictive covenants in real estate sub-divisions? About racial and religious discrimination in employment? How much have we said in comment and in protest about the recently reported increase of anti-Semitism throughout America? These are sins of omission for which we, as church editors, have a real responsibility."

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND ENDS JUNE 30; EXPENDED \$22,500,000 FOR "WELL-BEING OF MANKIND"

CHICAGO, March 31. (JTA) -- The vast Julius Rosenwald Fund, established more than 30 years ago by the late American Jewish philanthropist "for the well-being of mankind," will terminate on June 30, it was reported here today. By that date, some \$22,500,000 will have been appropriated to various cultural and philanthropic projects. More than \$10,000,000 was contributed by the fund to a program of Negro education.

The total expenditures of the fund represent capital and interest on the original endowment in 1917 of 227,784 shares of Sears, Roebuck & Co. stock. In setting up the trust, Rosenwald, head of the firm, specified that the funds must be spent within 25 years of his death. He died in 1932.

ARGENTINE JEWS FAIL IN NEW ATTEMPT TO CONDUCT MEETINGS IN YIDDISH; POLICE DENY PERMITS

BUENOS AIRES, March 31. (JTA) -- A new attempt by Jewish leaders here to obtain permission from Argentinian police authorities to conduct Jewish meetings in Yiddish failed again this week. Speeches were made and all business was handled in Spanish at two Zionist rallies held during the week because the police refused to grant permits for the use of a foreign language.

Although the police generally allow visiting Jews from abroad to use a foreign language at Jewish parleys, Samuel Segal, secretary of the World Confederation of General Zionists, was prohibited from addressing a meeting here in Yiddish. When the police grant permits for the holding of Zionist meetings, they specify that no foreign country may be criticized by the speakers.

NEW YORK RABBIS HOLD SPECIAL SERVICE FOR PALESTINE; PROTEST U.S. POLICY REVERSAL

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA) -- The new U.S. policy on Palestine was termed today "an act of betrayal" by Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis at a special "Service of Prayer and Intercession" arranged by the New York Board of Rabbis at Temple Anshe Chesed here. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Rabbi David de Sola Pool were among the speakers.

The board, which represents the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Rabbinate, adopted a resolution expressing "profound shock and deep grief of the American Government's reversal policy" with respect to the partition of Palestine.

"It is the conviction of the New York Board of Rabbis that this act is a betrayal of the hope of the Jewish people that has been fortified by the conscience of humanity speaking through the United Nations," the resolution continued. "It is also a gross surrender to force. Such a surrender threatens the destruction of the hope of humanity in the U.N., an instrument for preserving peace and promoting justice for all peoples. We call upon the Truman administration to recall the reversal and to return to the plan approved by the General Assembly of the U.N."

HABIMAH TO PERFORM IN NEW YORK IN MAY; SPONSORED BY U.S. FUND FOR PALESTINIAN INSTITUTIONS

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA) -- The Habimah theatrical company of Palestine will visit New York in May for a limited engagement of six weeks on Broadway, it was announced today. The group, consisting of 29 persons, is under the sponsorship of the American Fund for Palestinian Institutions.

The Habimah last visited the United States 22 years ago when it toured several cities. The company plans to present The Dybbuk, The Golem, Sophocles and other plays, all in Hebrew. Theatre, Inc., is cooperating with the American Fund in arranging for the company's performances.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS TO HOLD 59TH ANNUAL CONVENTION IN KANSAS CITY

NEW YORK, March 31. (JTA) -- The 59th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, June 22-27, it was announced here today by Dr. Abraham J. Feldman, president of the Conference. The parley's theme will be "The Future of Judaism in America."