

Friday, April 2, 1948

JTA Daily News Bulletin

UBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

SECURITY COUNCIL DECIDES TO CALL SPECIAL ASSEMBLY SESSION ON PALESTINE FOR APRIL 16

LAKE SUCCESS, April 1. (JTA) -- The U.N. Security Council today voted in favor of the two American resolutions urging the convocation of a special session of the General Assembly to reconsider its Palestine partition decision and to call for an Arab-Jewish truce in Palestine.

The resolution for the truce was adopted unanimously by the 11 members of the Council. The resolution for a special session was adopted by a vote of 9 in favor and two abstaining. The abstentions were recorded by the Soviet Union and the Ukraine. The special Assembly will open on April 16.

Prior to the voting on the resolutions, British delegate Sir Alexander Cadogan announced that he had received instructions from his government to support the two U.S. proposals. At the same time, he declared that Britain will definitely terminate the Palestine Mandate by May 15 and will adhere to its original evacuation timetable.

This was the first time since the Palestine question was placed before the U.N. that the British Government has abandoned its position of "neutrality" or abstention from voting on decisions concerning Palestine. In making his announcement, Sir Alexander emphasized that there could be no question of Britain continuing its administrative authority in Palestine after May 15.

Shertok Pleads Against Trusteeship; Wants U.N. Authority to Supervise Truce

Moshe Shertok, presenting the views of the Jewish Agency on the American resolutions in an impassioned plea to the Council, spoke against trusteeship and for the continuation of U.N. plans to implement the partition decision. He also emphasized that if a truce is achieved in Palestine, there must be an international authority to maintain and supervise it.

The U.S. proposal for a truce, he pointed out, was "misleading" since it presented a distorted picture of the situation in Palestine by giving the impression that it was a purely local matter and that both sides were actually at fault. He said that 7,500 armed Arabs invaded Palestine from neighboring countries and that they are the main threat to law and order in the country.

Without these incursions from the Arab states, which are members of the United Nations, he declared, there would be no crisis and the problem of partition would have been easily resolved. He asked whether it was proper for the Council not to take steps to condemn, suppress or even report such acts of aggression. The evidence, he said, was too overwhelming that Syria and Egypt were financing expeditions into Palestine while the Lebanese Parliament was openly voting appropriations to supply arms and men for the Palestine conflict.

Referring to the U.S. proposal for an Arab-Jewish truce, Shertok said that the truce had to be regarded as a step in the implementation of partition. It must

ipulate the evacuation of the foreign armed Arabs from Palestine and the prevention of further incursions. There must be no "political reward" for violence or for defiance of a U.N. decision, he stated.

Temporary trusteeship for Palestine, Shertok argued, would only aggravate the situation, unless it were tied to a definite political solution. He emphasized that the Jews and the Arabs were ready for independence and any trusteeship plan would only, or at least delay, that independence. The American proposal, he added, was "a trap into perils unknown" without assurance of cooperation or of means of carrying out trusteeship, at a time when much effort had gone into charting the path to partition.

Jerusalem May Become a "Shambles," Shertok Warns; Urges U.N. Action

In a climax which evoked applause from the audience, Shertok pleaded that it is not yet too late to implement the U.N. partition decision. He concluded by speaking of the perils now facing Jerusalem, a city with a Jewish majority which, he said, the Mandatory Power is letting fall into the hands of Arab fanatics. Notorious henchmen of the Mufti, he said, were engaged in an attempt to cut off food and water from the Jews in Jerusalem and to harass and kill them.

Warning that Jerusalem was in danger of becoming a battlefield, even a "shambles," Shertok emphasized that it was the responsibility of the United Nations at least to enforce peace and order in this city "so important to all mankind." If the U.N. will not assume this responsibility, it will fall to the Jews to do their utmost to save the city, he declared.

U.S. Will Present Details of Trusteeship Plan on Monday

Following the vote by the Council favoring the American resolutions, U.S. delegate Warren Austin invited all of the Council members to meet in the office of his delegation on Monday afternoon to consider the U.S. proposal for a temporary U.N. trusteeship over Palestine.

Soviet delegate Andrei Gromyko declared that the Council is not empowered to order the U.N. Palestine Commission to suspend its activities. The Soviet Union, he said, supported the American truce resolution, but believes that the Palestine Commission must continue its work on the basis of the powers granted it by the Assembly, and only the Assembly can revoke these powers.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Shertok insisted after today's dramatic events that the formation of the Jewish State would go on.

AMENDMENTS TO IMMIGRATION BILL ASK FOR ADMISSION OF 200,000 DP'S TO UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON, April 1. (JTA) -- Sen. J. Howard McGrath, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, today introduced a number of amendments to the Wiley Bill calling for the admission of more displaced persons as immigrants. The major change provides for the entry of 200,000 DP's within two years rather than 100,000 as visualized in the Wiley Bill.

Other amendments offered by Sen. McGrath call for an international conference to settle DP problems, and eliminate many of the restrictions written into the bill by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Another amendment offered by McGrath would eliminate entirely a section of the bill which would prohibit the State Department from giving priorities to DP's under other immigration orders. Still another change sought by McGrath would be to extend the date of eligibility from Dec. 22, 1945, as called for in the bill, to April 21, 1947, to cover those who were displaced after the earlier date.

BRITISH IN JERUSALEM URGED TO EVACUATE CITY BY APRIL 15; SMALL COLONY TO STAY ON

JERUSALEM, April 1. (JTA)--Sir Henry L. Gurney, Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government, today warned all Britons in Jerusalem that the last chance for them to leave Palestine in Army convoys and Government-chartered troopships would be April 15, a month before the Mandate terminates.

On that date, he said, a large convoy assembly would leave the city in a two-day journey through Arab territory. After April 15, he added, every Briton in Jerusalem would have to make his own arrangements for leaving the city.

About 80 Britons, including 20 women, will stay in Jerusalem indefinitely. Most of them are either missionaries or business men. They have formed a British colony in the city which will provide its members with food and fuel for the next six weeks, made up chiefly of Army and Government surplus stocks.

The colony will be concentrated in the present "German colony" in Security Zone A. All of the men in the group are trained in the use of firearms and have considerable supplies on hand. They also have a powerful radio transmitter with which to reach the outside world after Jerusalem is cut off from the entire world, as is generally expected will happen, and such services as cables, mail, electricity and water become unavailable in the wake of heavy street fighting.

Those British who are remaining in Jerusalem assume that neither the Jews nor the Arabs will attack them since they feel they will be carrying out useful duties to both groups and might even serve as liaison between the two.

Haganah Penetrates Arab Fortress Village; Demolishes Important Positions

A strong Haganah force today penetrated the Arab fortress village of Abu Kebir, astride the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road, and smashed a number of important Arab defensive positions before retiring.

The assault was carried out in the face of stiff opposition from the village, which has been used as a base for continuous Arab attacks on nearby Jewish districts of Tel Aviv as well as raids on Jewish convoys entering or leaving the city. During the engagement at least 100 mortar shells were exchanged.

The Arabs, fearing an all-out assault on Jaffa proper, rallied their forces and posted additional guards at the entry points to the city. However, reinforcements from the surrounding area could not reach the scene of the battle because the Jews have closed all roads around Jaffa to traffic.

The casualty toll in yesterday's train wreck near Benyamina has risen to nearly 60 dead and 100 wounded, it was revealed today. The Sternists have assumed responsibility for the dead, asserting that the train carried Arab reinforcements and large supplies of arms and ammunition. As a result of the recent attacks on the rail line, the government has restricted rail traffic on the main Haifa-Cairo road to three trains weekly, in one direction only.

Jewish and Arab mortars exchanged shells for several hours just before dawn this morning when the Arabs started shelling the Jewish section of the Old City. The

4/2/48

Haganah responded by trying to silence the Arab mortar batteries posted in nearby Arab Silwan, on the slope of the Mount of Olives. The British eventually halted the battle.

Arabs Claim 80 Jews Killed in Convoy attack; Jews Report Nine Dead

A Jewish food convoy bound for Jerusalem from Tel Aviv was attacked again early today and was still stranded somewhere between the two cities in predominantly Arab territory late this afternoon. After two major battles, during which the Arabs claim to have killed 80 Jews and the Haganah admit the loss of nine dead and 15 missing, the 60-vehicle convoy is preparing another dash toward the besieged sections of Jerusalem where 100,000 Jews have only a three-day supply of food.

For the third successive day the Jewish internees at the Athlit prison camp have been mistreated by British guards and two men and a woman have been injured by indiscriminate firing by guards at groups of prisoners. The mistreatment started Tuesday after the discovery of an arms cache in the prison grounds. Water, light and visitors have been denied the prisoners and the food ration has been drastically reduced.

Referring to a British suggestion that the Jews in the Old City be evacuated or disarmed as a peace gesture toward the Arabs, a Jewish Agency spokesman today pointed out that the British had also suggested the evacuation of the Negev and the Kfar Etzion settlements. "Where will the evacuations end?" if the British proposals are accepted by the Jews, he asked.

30 REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVES URGE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY INTO U.S. PALESTINE POLICY

WASHINGTON, April 1. (JTA)--Thirty Republican Congressmen today called for a full investigation of the U.S. Palestine policy by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The request was addressed to Rep. Charles Eaton, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Republican Congressmen Jacob Javits and Kenneth B. Keating of New York, Christian A. Herter of Massachusetts, Robert J. Twyman of Illinois, and Franklin J. Maloney of Pennsylvania, speaking for themselves and their 25 colleagues, told a press conference today that only investigation of the full facts could clear up the confusion that now exists and enable the Congress to chart its course with regard to reaching a solution of the Palestine problem.

CONVENTION OF AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS HEARS REPORT ON COMBATTING BIAS IN U.S.

NEW YORK, April 1. (JTA)--Significant gains had been made by the American Jewish Congress during the past two years towards the guarantee of full civil liberties for all Americans, particularly in the field of equality of educational opportunity, it was reported today by Dr. David Petegorsky, national executive director of the organization.

Addressing the 1,200 delegates to the biennial national convention of the American Jewish Congress, now taking place at the Hotel New Yorker here, Dr. Petegorsky warned, however, that increasing domestic reaction and the hysteria being deliberately fostered might undo those gains, unless determined counter-offensives were launched.

"In view of the present attitude of the American Government with regard to Palestine, tensions between the great powers and increasing domestic political instability, it may become far more difficult to continue asserting the right of the Jewish people to statehood in Palestine, the need for protection of political, economic and social rights of the Jews in many lands and to fight for the full civil rights of all Americans," he said. Rabbi Irving Miller also addressed the convention

44,000 JEWS LIVE IN POLAND TODAY, SURVEY REVEALS; ONE-THIRD OF CHILDREN ORPHANED

WARSAW, April 1. (JTA)--There are 94,000 Jews living in Poland today, it was revealed in a survey made public here by the Central Jewish Committee. Nearly half of them, or 44,000 are concentrated in Lower Silesia, the survey established.

Of Poland's total Jewish population, the report said, about 7,000 are between the ages of 15 and 25, while children under 16 number approximately 12,000. The report attributes the decreasing Jewish population to the continuous emigration of Jews from the country.

Close to 34,000 Jews are gainfully employed, the survey shows. Nearly 20 per cent of them self-employed in small workshops, while 12 per cent are salaried workers, ten per cent are employed by social institutions and a little more than eight per cent are engaged by business firms. Fields in which Jews are employed include textile manufacturing, metal works, coal mining and agriculture.

Jewish Schools Will Be Closed Because of Insufficient Enrollment

Nearly half of the 7,000 Jewish youths in Poland are studying in high schools and colleges, while about 1,000 attend trade schools. Although the Jewish population of Poland is .04 per cent of the total, two per cent of the country's students are Jewish.

There are approximately 35 Yiddish schools with an enrollment of more than 3,000 students while the country's 13 Hebrew schools are attended by 1,000 pupils. Of all these schools, about 13 will be closed down this year because of insufficient enrollment.

Eleven children's homes provide full-time care to 773 children, while 56 other institutions afford partial assistance to 3,300 youngsters. Nearly 6,000 Jewish children receive some form of public assistance. One-third of all the Jewish children are either full or half-orphans.

The Jews in Poland, the report continues, maintain 31 cultural clubs, 26 dramatic groups, three people's universities, 12 choral groups, 13 libraries with 2,300 readers and 16,500 books, a theatrical school and a music school. In addition, there are regular Jewish radio programs, a teachers seminary and a Jewish Historical Institute--a cultural and artistic society--with a membership of 4,000. Several books and pamphlets by and about Jews have been published recently.

FIVE JEWISH DEPUTIES ELECTED TO RUMANIAN PARLIAMENT ON PRO-GOVERNMENT LIST

BUCHAREST, April 1. (JTA)--Final returns of Sunday's national elections made public today reveal that all five Jewish candidates named to represent the Jewish population in the Rumanian parliament on the government bloc ticket were elected by heavy pluralities.

The five are: Prof. Maximilian Popper, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities and one of the country's outstanding physicians; he is not a member of any party and enjoys wide popularity among the Jews in Bucharest; Hersh Leibovice, an attorney, and secretary-general of the Federation, who has played a leading role in Rumania's war crimes trials; Bercu Feldmann, a Communist, who has been active in the trade union movement all his life; Marcel Fisher and Eduard Manolescu.

