

Sunday, April 4, 1948

JTA Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

LAST MINUTE NEWS

U.N. PALESTINE COMMISSION DECIDES TO CONTINUE ITS WORK; WILL PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY

LAKE SUCCESS, April 2. (JTA) -- The U.N. Palestine Commission today formally resolved to continue its work notwithstanding the decisions taken by the Security Council last night to convoke a special session of the General Assembly on Palestine and to call for an Arab-Jewish truce.

In adopting this resolution, the Commission will, nevertheless, proceed with its work cautiously. Commission members pointed out that they must anticipate the possibility that the special session of the Assembly may produce no alternative plan for partition. Therefore, they argued, they must go ahead with their work, including the selection of Provisional Councils of Government. How far the Commission is prepared to move towards the implementation of its plan for the establishment of a Jewish Provisional Council of Government will be decided at its meeting on Monday.

The sole opponent to the resolution was the representative of Denmark who thought any formal resolution even hinting at this time at political action might only serve to inflame passions in Palestine when truce efforts were in progress. He preferred that the Commission confine itself to action on such non-political problems as food, currency and administrative services.

The Commission revealed that the food situation in Palestine is in a "state of chaos." On May 15, Palestine will have only a two-weeks wheat supply on hand, the Commission said. The group decided today to send a representative to Washington to negotiate with the British Food Mission there on the possibility of alleviating the situation.

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U.S. REPORTED PLANNING PALESTINE "CANTONIZATION;" DOES NOT SEEK TO BE SOLE TRUSTEE

LAKE SUCCESS, April 2. (JTA) -- The United States does not at this stage seek to be the only trustee for Palestine under its trusteeship plan, it was stated here today. However, semi-official sources indicated that the American Government is apparently ready to enter into a joint arrangement with other powers to guarantee the security of Palestine.

Reliable sources said that the American trusteeship plan which will be presented on Monday to members of the Security Council is based on the idea of dividing Palestine into several Jewish and Arab cantons ruled by a U.N. Governor with the aid of a legislature in which Jews and Arabs would be represented.

A spokesman for the American delegation at the United Nations said today that no Jewish representative will be invited to attend the meeting of the Security Council on Monday at which Palestine trusteeship will be discussed. This, he explained, is due to the fact that the meeting will be informal. Delegates of Arab countries represented on the Council will, however, be present. The meeting will be held in the office of Senator Warren Austin, chief American delegate at the U.N.

JEWISH CONVOY BATTLING FOR THIRD DAY TO REACH JERUSALEM WITH FOOD; 79 ARABS KILLED

JERUSALEM, April 2. (JTA) -- Using a heavy concentration of mortars, Arab bands today attacked the settlements of Beth Alpha, Hetziba and Zeraim, in the Beisan Valley, east of Haifa, and Bet Yam, near Tel Aviv. In all cases the marauders were thrown back before they had inflicted more than minor injuries to a few Jews. The Haganah itself carried out a series of actions against Arab concentrations in the Haifa area.

Very little news is available of a Jewish convoy of more than 70 trucks which is fighting for the third day to break through Arab roadblocks and ambushes in the Bab el Wad area to reach Jerusalem where food is desperately needed. The Haganah has clamped down a news blackout to protect the convoy. One report today said that a new attempt to crash through the Arab gun positions failed and the convoy again withdrew, after a heavy loss of life to both sides.

A Haganah broadcast last night said that 79 Arabs, mostly Iraqi, were killed in an engagement with a Haganah force attempting to open the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road from the Jerusalem approaches. Two Jews and six Arabs were killed and three Jews and two Arabs were seriously wounded in a heavy exchange of fire between adjoining districts in Jaffa and Tel Aviv.

Drs. Emanuel Neumann and Israel Goldstein, of the Z.O.A., are among 12 members of the Zionist Actions Committee who arrived in Tel Aviv today in preparation for a special meeting of the body, which opens Sunday. At a news conference Dr. Neumann declared that the Jews of America were shocked and angered by the U.S. reversal on partition. American Jewry, he emphasized, is ready to make every sacrifice and will stand "shoulder to shoulder" with Palestine's Jews in their fight for independence and freedom.

LARGE NUMBERS OF BRITONS VOLUNTEERING TO JOIN UNITED NATIONS FORCE FOR PALESTINE

LONDON, April 2. (JTA) -- Large numbers of Britons, many of them veterans of the RAF, have applied to the United Nations information office here for service with a U.N. force which may be sent to Palestine to keep order there, it was revealed here today.

The removal of the Jewish Agency headquarters and of the offices of other Jewish representative bodies in Jerusalem is urged today by the London Economist, one of the most influential British newspapers. The paper also suggests that Jews abandon the outlying settlements which can only be maintained from Jerusalem.

"This may seem to Zionists too high a price to pay for religious peace, in which few of them are interested," the paper says. However, it points out that "there are barely six weeks left in which to make peace" and warns that Jerusalem will face grave dangers after the termination of the Mandate on May 15.

The British Chief Rabbinate and the Rabbinical Council, in conjunction with orthodox rabbinical bodies in all parts of the world, today proclaimed April 8 as a day of prayer and fasting in this country for divine intercession in behalf of the Palestine Jews and world peace.

U.S. REVERSAL ON PALESTINE POLICY CRITICIZED IN SENATE; EFFECT ON U.N. PRESTIGE CITED

WASHINGTON, April 2. (JTA) -- Senator Wayne Morse, Oregon Republican, questioning the U.S. reversal on Palestine, told the Senate that if the United Nations reverses its decisions every time a nation threatens the peace by refusing to comply with such decisions "it can never survive as an instrumentality for maintaining peace."

He called for more facts "than those that have been given us to date in regard to our Government's position on the Palestine issue." Thus far, Morse said, "I have been able to reach no other conclusion on the basis of such information as has been supplied to me to date, than that the position of our government is not one on the merits or demerits of partition, but only on the question as to whether enforcement of partition might endanger peace."

"If the State Department and the U.S. delegate to the United Nations consider that on the merits of partition they should reconsider the proposal, then I am ready to reconsider," Morse said, "but if it is a question of enforcement of partition, then, I think, if we are to have international government by law, we are going to have that issue of enforcement."

U.S. SHIFT ON PALESTINE HIT AT FRENCH ZIONIST RALLY; SNEH SAYS JEWS MUST FIGHT

PARIS, April 2. (JTA) -- Criticism of the American Government's "about-face" on Palestine was voiced here last night by former Minister of Finance Andre Philip in an address at a French Zionist Federation mass meeting. He warned that if the United Nations reverses itself on partition, "it will mean a Munich and the end of security in the world."

Dr. Moshe Sneh, former member of the Jewish Agency executive who spoke in the name of the United Labor Party of Palestine, said that the United States policy is intended to force the Jews of Palestine to capitulate. He also denounced the attitude of Great Britain in Palestine and predicted that the present generation of Jews will have to fight for the Jewish state.

The only way left to the Jews to fight for Palestine, Sneh declared, is to fight against the "powerful alliance of imperialism, feudalism and fascism" "shoulder to shoulder with all freedom-loving forces in the world."

CONVENTION OF AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS DISCUSSES IMMIGRATION AND DEFENSE PROBLEMS

NEW YORK, April 2. (JTA) -- Problems dealing with immigration of displaced persons to the United States and with the combatting of racial and religious bias in this country were discussed today at the biennial convention of the American Jewish Congress, now in its third day at the Hotel New Yorker. The convention also heard a message from Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the organization, denouncing the U.S. reversal of its Palestine policy.

The center of discussion was the Wiley-Revercomb Bill now pending before the Senate which limits the total number of displaced persons to be admitted to the United States to 50,000 a year for the next two years. The bill and its restrictive features were criticized by speakers "as a discriminatory measure" and "a discredit to the noble humanitarian and moral traditions of America."

Pledging a continued fight toward the goal of "full equality and freedom for all Americans," Shad Polier, a vice-president of the American Jewish Congress, told the delegates he believes that such equality can be achieved. "We realize that many forces, habits, prejudices and interests stand between us and our goal," he said. "But we are not alone. With us are all other peoples sometimes termed the minority groups. With us, too, are those groups we call progressive. With us, in a word, are the people who believe in America."

Dr. Wise, in his message to the convention, termed the American change of policy on Palestine as "one of the great moral tragedies of history." He accused the American Government of pursuing "a most uncertain and vacillating course in blindly following the guidance of the British Government" and of being prepared to sacrifice the United Nations. "The American Jewish Congress," he asserted, "is resolved to give to the Jewish state all which unequivocally loyal American Jews can give to the Judea that is to be, thereby not only meeting our obligation to our fellow-Jews, whose political homelessness must forever end, but likewise proving our worth as sons and daughters of the American tradition."

Rabbi Morton Berman of Chicago, speaking on "American Jewry and the Jewish State," said: "The Administration's reversal of its policy toward a Jewish Commonwealth is tantamount not only to a betrayal of the Jewish people, but of the United Nations." Nathan Edelstein, of Philadelphia, called for a "counter-offensive against all abridgements of freedom that would make a mockery of the sacred heritage of the Bill of Rights."

Discussing "Jews in the Diaspora," Dr. Joachim Prinz of Newark declared that "the Jewish people throughout the world are one and that the fate of the Jewish people is one. That means a clear identification of American Jewry with world Jewry."

HIAS HEADQUARTERS IN SANTIAGO BOMBED; SECOND BLAST OF JEWISH BUILDING IN TWO MONTHS

SANTIAGO, Chile, April 2. (JTA) -- HIAS headquarters here was blasted today by unknown persons. There were no casualties, but damage to the building was estimated at 50,000 pesos.

Jewish leaders charged that the bombing--the second of a Jewish building here in the past two months--was the direct result of intensified anti-Semitic propaganda. Police officials announced that they have launched an investigation. Perpetrators of the Feb. 5 bombing of the Israelite Club here have not yet been apprehended.

PURGE OF JEWISH COMMUNAL BODIES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA CONTINUES; COMMUNISTS FILL POSITIONS

PRAGUE, April 2. (JTA) -- Continuing its purge of Jewish communal bodies in Czechoslovakia, the Jewish Actions Committee announced today that it has "reorganized" the praesidium and Administrative Committee of the Council of Jewish Communities of Bohemia-Moravia.

Dr. Emil Ungar, Under-Secretary in the Ministry of Health, is the new chairman of the Council. Frantisek Fuchs remains vice-chairman but Dr. Edmund Schwarz, an official in the Ministry of Interior, has been appointed co-vice-chairman. There are no Zionists now on the executive board of the Council, while the only Orthodox representative still serving is an Agudah member, Alois Gips.

Ernest Frischer, former chairman of the Council, has now also been dismissed from the board. The announcement that Dr. Adolf Bebes, secretary-general of the Prague Joint Distribution Committee and chairman of the Zionist Organization in Bohemia-Moravia, has been discharged from the board, caused a sensation in Jewish circles.

Former members who still remain on the Administrative Committee--which is a larger body than the board--include Dr. Lev Tanzer and two Zionists, Dr. Edward Ansky and Alexander Simon. The large majority of the new members of both bodies are communists.

JEWISH DELEGATION DISCUSSES RESTITUTION PROBLEM WITH MINISTER IN WARSAW

WARSAW, April 2. (JTA) -- The problem of restitution of Jewish property to Jewish communities in Poland was raised today during a conference of Minister for Public Administration Edward B. Osubka-Morawski and a Central Jewish Committee delegation.

At the same time, the deputation informed the Minister that many Jewish cemeteries in small towns and out-of-the-way communities are in an abject state, since few Jews had returned to those areas and because in some instances the local Polish population was systematically destroying the neglected burial grounds. The delegation was assured by Osubka-Morawski that the government would protect the Jewish cemeteries as "places of a religious nature."

U.S. MILITARY ASKED TO FACILITATE AIR TRANSPORTATION OF JEWISH DP'S FROM BERLIN

NEW YORK, April 2. (JTA) -- The difficulties which Soviet authorities in Berlin are now making for rail travel today prompted HIAS headquarters here to cable to U.S. military authorities in Germany asking them to make available air transportation to displaced Jews in the American and British sectors of Berlin who have received U.S. immigration visas.

In a message to General Lucius Clay, U.S. commander in Berlin, Samuel A. Telsey, president of HIAS, pointed out that the recipients of U.S. visas are orphans, survivors of Nazi concentration camps and their children, who have waited years for their immigration quota numbers. The cable added that "further delay in their immigration would be deplorable." Telsey also voiced the fear that some of the coveted visas might expire if there were a delay in transportation.

LEHMAN CRITICIZES U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR NEW STAND ON PALESTINE; OPPOSES TRUSTEESHIP

ALBANY, N.Y., April 2. (JTA) -- Terming the Palestine question "one of the latest test issues of the United Nations," former Governor Herbert H. Lehman today criticized the American Government for its new policy on Palestine which resulted in the decision taken by the U.N. Security Council last night to call a special session of the General Assembly to reconsider the recommendation to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states.

"The unexpected reversal of the American official position has struck a vital blow at the authority of the United Nations and the international prestige of the United States," Lehman said in an address before the New York State Convention of Americans for Democratic Action. "It is admitted that it was Arab intransigence which caused our Government to reverse its position and to recommend that the U.N. bow to Arab threats.

"I have always been an ardent supporter of the United Nations since its creation. I have placed great hope in its effectiveness as a weapon of world security and peace. Together with millions of other Americans, I am still unwilling to surrender this hope. But certainly there will be little realistic hope for the effectiveness or success of the U.N. if it is compelled to confess complete impotence and is forced to scrap its own decisions because of threats.

"It is claimed that the new plan of trusteeship will insure peace in the Middle East. Certainly there is no assurance of this. A trusteeship is not self-executing. It will, in my opinion, require at least as great an international force to enforce trusteeship as to implement partition. And we will abandon a tragically-behaved people who, although small in number and now almost defenseless, constitute the only democratic group in the vast mass of Arab feudalism and autocracy.

"Our international security is, of course, of supreme importance to every American," Lehman declared. "Every loyal American -- regardless of religious faith or race -- would willingly lay aside all other interests if a threat to our national security had been demonstrated. But no reasons have been advanced to the American people to alter their belief that the objective sought in the original proposal of partition can be attained consistently with the security of the United States."

New U.S. Palestine Policy Hit as "Providing A Spectacle of Indignity"

PHILADELPHIA, April 2. (JTA) -- Severe criticism against the move of the U.S. Government to have the United Nations abolish its Palestine partition decision was voiced here today by Dr. Carl Hermann Voss, extension secretary of the Church Peace Union, in an address to the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

"For the sake of questionable tactical advantages in a Great Power game, America seems ready to sacrifice not only her own justice and honor, but the future of the United Nations as well," he declared. "America succeeds only in providing a spectacle of indignity and complete lack of principle."

He emphasized that "the partition of Palestine, if successfully carried through, would represent the most comprehensive venture in international cooperation where all the bodies of the United Nations and numerous specialized agencies would participate."