

Monday, April 5, 1948

TA Daily News Bulletin

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

U.S. DELEGATION AND STATE DEPARTMENT COMPLETE DETAILS OF PALESTINE TRUSTEESHIP PLAN

LAKE SUCCESS, April 4. (JTA) -- The United States delegation at the U.N. announced today that it has completed the details of a trusteeship plan for Palestine, with the cooperation of the State Department. The delegation also stated that it would submit the plan to the special General Assembly session April 16. A U.S. spokesman said the delegation hoped the session would be brief.

Members of the Security Council will meet tomorrow in the offices of the American delegation for informal talks on the U.S. proposals for international trusteeship. It is still not known whether the Soviet and Ukrainian delegates will attend in view of their abstentions during the vote to call a special session to reconsider partition.

Meanwhile, the U.N. Palestine Commission and Britain are reported to have worked out plans under which the British Government will permit the Palestine Administration's trading account to be used for the importation of food supplies, particularly wheat which is critically needed, after May 15. The agreement will also supply Palestine with sugar, cereals and some fats and oil until June 30. However, the U.N. is still faced with the problem of distributing the supplies after they reach Palestine.

The British have thus far arranged for the importation of food supplies for only a short period beyond the termination of the Mandate. Until now, the world food allocation system of the International Emergency Food Council has allocated supplies to Palestine under the British Middle East allotment. After June 30 new allocations will be made and the U.N. Commission hopes to be able to disentangle Palestine's quotas from the British Empire at that time.

ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE PARLEY POSTPONED; PALESTINE JEWS ABROAD TO REGISTER FOR SERVICE

JERUSALEM, April 4. (JTA) -- The Zionist Actions Committee's emergency session which was slated to open in Tel Aviv today was postponed until Tuesday when it is expected that all the members of the body will have reached the city.

The session's agenda includes comprehensive reports on the political situation in the United Nations, in the United States and Britain and the military and political picture in Palestine. The Committee will also consider several major problems arising out of the formation of a Provisional Jewish Government. It will have to make a final decision on the participation of the Revisionists and the Agudas Israel in the Provisional Cabinet and Government Council. The session is expected to end after April 16, the date on which the U.N. special session on reconsidering partition will open at Lake Success.

The Jewish National Council today disclosed that it has ordered all Palestinian Jews of military age who are living abroad to register at local Jewish Agency offices

for military service. It was estimated that there are some 6,000 men in this category, most of whom are in the United States. It is not known when they will be called to Palestine to take up arms.

The Jewish Agency met for six hours today, but issued no statement at the conclusion of the meeting. It was expected in Jewish circles that the meeting would reply to High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham who last night appealed to both the Arab and Jewish peoples to declare a truce. Pointing out that the British were not due to remain in the country much longer, Cunningham said that nonetheless he wished to see peace for at least that short time, and offered his services to the civil and military leaders of both sides to negotiate an armistice.

Arabs Reject Truce Appeal; Jews Seen Cool to Proposal

While the Agency made no official reply, it is expected that the Jews will not agree to any truce unless the Arabs are prevented from continuing their mobilization during the armistice period and providing that the existence of a Jewish state is not compromised. The Palestine Arab Higher Committee today announced that a truce is impossible unless the idea of a Jewish state in Palestine is given up, while reports from Cairo state that Abdul Rahman Azzam Pasha, secretary-general of the Arab League, also refused the U.N.'s appeal for a truce.

The Haganah was today still holding the Arab village of Castel, astride the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem main road, west of Jerusalem, which it seized yesterday in an operation aimed at reclaiming control of the highway from the Arabs. Four hundred Arabs were said to be counterattacking the Jewish positions in Castel which were taken with the loss of 170 Jewish lives.

Other engagements, aimed at breaking the Arab stranglehold on the road, are taking place in the vicinity of Hulda where for four days a large convoy bringing food supplies from Tel Aviv has been unsuccessfully attempting to break through a score of roadblocks and mine fields manned by some 3,000 Arabs.

The Jewish Agency denied reports that it was offered assistance by the British to bring supplies to Jerusalem, but had refused them in order to establish the Jews' ability to protect their own convoys. An Agency spokesman declared that only after repeated appeals for assistance were disregarded did the Jews throw all their forces into the road battles.

Arab guerrillas completely looted and destroyed installations at the Shimon Cement Company, near Hartuv. The damage is estimated at \$600,000.

DR. WISE RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS; CONVENTION ENDS TODAY

NEW YORK, April 4. (JTA) -- Dr. Stephen S. Wise was unanimously re-elected president of the American Jewish Congress at the biennial national convention at the Hotel New Yorker here today. Other officers include Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the executive committee; Rabbi Joachim Prinz, chairman of administrative committee; and Dr. Alfred Marrow, treasurer.

A special session will be held tomorrow in Washington where "The Palestine Crisis" will be discussed. Adjournment of the convention will follow the discussion. (The resolutions adopted by the Congress delegates were not available at the time the Bulletin went to press.)

Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, former commander of American occupation forces in Germany, told the Congress last night that "the only solution to the displaced persons problem lies in resettlement." Following his address, Gen. McNarney presented A.J.C. citations to Judge Simon H. Rifkind, Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein and Judge Louis E. Levinthal, all former advisers on Jewish affairs to the American Military Government in Germany.

50,000 VETERANS MARCH IN J.W.V. PARADE TO PROTEST U.S. REVERSAL OF POLICY ON PALESTINE

NEW YORK, April 4. (JTA) -- More than 50,000 veterans of all faiths today marched in a huge parade to protest the American reversal of policy on Palestine and to demand that the U.N. partition decision be upheld. The demonstration and a rally which was held at the end of the line of march were sponsored by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

Veterans from posts in 14 states swung down Fifth Avenue in the early morning hours carrying banners and placards and shouting slogans pledging support of the new Jewish state, saluting the Haganah and assailing 'Arab appeasement' as "un-American." As the marchers, many in uniform and all wearing service caps passed they were cheered by some 250,000 spectators. Among the demonstrators were men who had served in both World Wars and the Spanish-American War.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, who was the chief speaker at the rally, asked President Truman and Secretary of State George C. Marshall why they took the initiative in calling a special session of the U. N. General Assembly to revoke partition when they insist that they still believe in it as a solution of the Palestine problem. He also asked them why they were willing to join an international police force to enforce a trusteeship when they refused to do the same for partition.

"It is not yet too late for our country to return from a lamentable detour to the highway of a clear purpose and a fine, consistent position at the United Nations," Dr. Silver insisted. "Our government should re-affirm the position which it wisely took last November in favor of solving the Palestine problem through partition, a position which the President of the United States and the Secretary of State endorsed and still endorse."

Asserting that "Palestine and petroleum will not mix" and the United States is sacrificing its honor in Palestine for the oil of Arabia, Sen. Owen Brewster of Maine, another speaker, declared that America "stands stultified before world opinion" in seeking to support all at once a truce with the Grand Mufti, a trusteeship for Palestine under "some unknown trustee and supported presumably by American arms" and a partition plan "solemnly adopted after extensive study by more than two-thirds of the United Nations."

Brig. Gen. Julius Klein said: "We have marched today for something more than justice to the heroic people of Palestine. We have marched together as living evidence that the American people are determined to retain their national honor and integrity." He added that "we ask no new or special privilege for the Jewish people of Palestine. We ask only in a time of international tension and unrest, our country stand fast by its traditional support for the just cause of a people who seek to secure themselves in a way of life akin to our own."

Majority of American Press Scores Administration Switch, Poll Reveals

WASHINGTON, April 4. (JTA) -- The majority of American newspapers have castigated the U.S. reversal on Palestine "in no uncertain terms," the Twokey Analysis of Newspaper Opinion revealed over the week-end, according to an announcement by the Zionist Organization of America.

The report points out that the stress in most of the press comments on Palestine is not "on any presumed injustice done the Zionist groups or the Jews in general, but rather one of dismay at a 'hopelessly bungled policy.'" Most U.S. papers feel "that the currently proposed trusteeship arrangement does not contribute in any way to even a temporary solution of the Palestine violence," the survey reports, adding that "the general military importance of the Middle East is brought into question."

PIUS CONSIDERS PALESTINE ISSUE; RECEIVES JAMES G. MACDONALD AND PRO-ARAB BRITON

ROME, April 4. (JTA) -- Pope Pius XII spent considerable time on the Palestine problem this week-end. He discussed the current situation there with Maj. Gen. Edward Spears, former British Minister to the Levant who is known as a pro-Arab spokesman, and later received James G. MacDonald, former member of the Anglo-American Inquiry Committee on Palestine, who is pro-Zionist.

Earlier, MacDonald addressed an overflow meeting in the ancient synagogue on the banks of the Tiber. He warned that Arab and Moslem fanaticism endanger Christians in the Middle East. Jews, he said, will be the first victims and Christians will be the next.

Apologizing for the U.S. reversal on Palestine, MacDonald declared that the American people are not guilty of the policy shift. He also expressed confidence in the eventual establishment of the Jewish state, although he predicted that there are some difficulties ahead.

CZECH RABBINICAL BOARD HAILS GOVERNMENT PLEDGE OF FREEDOM OF WORSHIP FOR ALL FAITHS

PRAGUE, April 4. (JTA) -- The Board of Rabbis of Moravia and Bohemia today voiced its approval of last week's pledge by the Czech Central Actions Committee to guarantee the right of religious worship for all groups.

The rabbinical body also called on the Czech Jews to support the new regime, headed by Premier Klement Gottwald. It stated that the aims of the new regime are the best interests of the country. It called on all Jews to pray for the success of the government which is attempting to establish an order based on social justice such as that advocated by the Jewish religion.

DUTCH PROSECUTOR DEMANDS DEATH OF GESTAPO CHIEF CHARGED WITH MURDERING JEWS, PARTISANS

THE HAGUE, April 4. (JTA) -- The death sentence was demanded this week-end for General Hans Albin Reuter, former German head of the Gestapo in Holland, during a trial here for the murder of thousands of Dutch Jews and non-Jewish partisan fighters during the Nazi occupation of the country. The president of the court declared that "partial judgment" would be pronounced April 15.

Reuter's defense consisted of refusing to recognize the jurisdiction of the court while at the same time declaring that he placed himself at the Netherlands government's disposal so that his death might wipe out the hate between the Dutch and German people. The prosecutor charged him with attempting to make a martyr of himself and insisted on the death sentence as a matter of "justice to those who fell in the struggle for Dutch independence."

FRENCH CABINET DECIDES TO INVESTIGATE SANCTIONING OF ARMS SHIPMENTS TO LEBANON

PARIS, April 4. (JTA) -- The French Cabinet has decided to investigate the sale of arms to Lebanon after a stormy debate over the week-end in which several ministers charged that Minister of the Armed Forces Pierre Henri Teitgen had authorized the sale without prior consultation with the Cabinet.

It was pointed out here that the first delivery of the arms to Lebanon is scheduled to take place on May 15, the date of the Palestine Mandate's termination, while another shipment is scheduled for May 25. Last week the J.T.A. learned that Lebanon had ordered \$20,000,000 worth of mortars, artillery and machineguns from a French armaments firm.

