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CURFEW PROCLAIMED ON PALESTINE ROADS AS BATTLES RAGE IN VARIOUS PARTS OF COUNTRY

JERUSALEM, April 9. (JTA) -- A dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed tonight on all country roads in Palestine effective Sunday, while fierce battles continued to rage in various parts of the country.

The major battle was proceeding in the vicinity of the strategic Arab village of Castel, which was retaken at dawn today by Haganah after the Jews retreated yesterday in the face of a 5,000-man assault. The village, overlooking the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road--life line for food convoys to the 100,000 Jews in the Holy City--has changed hands three times in the last five days. Haganah used heavy mortar fire to dislodge some 2,000 Arabs who had entrenched themselves in the village.

Later in the day, hundreds of Jerusalem Arabs were reported to be joining the battle for Castel alongside Iraqi and Syrian crack troops under Fawzi el Kaukji's command. They were supported by artillery in a powerful effort to force the retreat of the 250 Haganah men who had driven the Arab forces out of the village stronghold.

Jews Capture Three More Arab Strongholds Near Jerusalem

In addition to regaining Castel early today, Jewish forces composed of Irgunists and Sternists, stormed and captured Deir Yassein, an Arab village near Jerusalem and four miles from Castel. They reportedly used eight armored cars and blew up a number of houses in the attack in which Arab casualties, police officials said, were comparatively heavy. Irgunist forces also occupied the Arab village of Ein Karim, in the same area.

After capturing Deir Yassein, the Jews discovered a large quantity of arms of various makes, including many British sub-machine guns which had been confiscated from the Irgun. The Jewish forces lost three men in the battle, while four others were wounded.

Immediately after raising the Jewish flag over the captured Arab village, the commander of the Jewish unit said he was holding 100 male prisoners as "hostages" in return for the safekeeping of a kidnapped Jewish family. The International Red Cross mission in Palestine was informed accordingly. The remainder of the Arab population was permitted to leave, while the prisoners were transferred by truck to Jerusalem where they were taken to an Irgun camp.

Haganah forces, meanwhile, captured Wadi Sara, another Arab stronghold dominating the road between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. After a brief but sharp exchange with Iraqi troops, they succeeded in occupying another nearby camp evacuated by the British ten days ago. The camp was offered for sale to the Jewish Agency about two months ago for \$44,000, on condition that the land remain Arab. After the Agency refused this condition, the government presented the camp to the Arabs with no strings attached.

In northern Palestine, a large force of Syrian Arabs renewed its attack today on the Jewish settlement of Lahavoth, which has been under fire since Wednesday, and

succeeded in encircling it. A severe battle was raging there, late reports said, with the Jews battering the center of the Arab guerrilla forces, who are using artillery.

The situation at Mishmar Haemek today was reported as quiet. Unable to capture the settlement during a five-day siege, the leader of the Arab forces sent truce feelers to the Jews, which were rejected.

Street Battle in Tiberias; Arabs Renew Attacks in Northern Palestine

A severe battle developed in Tiberias' streets, especially in the old section, after the Arab Legion, assisted by local Arabs, broke the truce in the city which has lasted for about three weeks. At least eight Jews and eight Arabs were killed in the skirmish.

Fighting broke out when members of the Arab Legion suddenly opened fire on a group of Jews. Jewish troops immediately rushed to the aid of the Jewish population and succeeded in driving the Legionnaires into another section of Tiberias. In addition to those killed, 22 Arabs and 10 Jews were wounded.

Members of the Arab Legion also attacked Jews working in the fields of the Jewish settlement of Daganian, and near the adjoining Mitzpa settlement. Two Jews were killed and two wounded. The Legionnaires retreated on trucks after the arrival of Jewish defenders.

Arab snipers in Haifa suffered heavy casualties during the last few days, with 19 reported killed and 36 wounded. The Arabs made two efforts to attack the Rothschild flour mills, but were beaten off by Jews and British troops.

PALESTINE COMMISSION MOVES CLOSER TO ESTABLISHMENT OF JEWISH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

LAKE SUCCESS, April 9. (JTA) -- The Palestine Commission today moved one step closer to the establishment of a Jewish Provisional Council of Government in Palestine.

Opening today's session, Commission chairman Karel Lisicky of Czechoslovakia recommended that the body consider a plan by Panama's Dr. Eduardo Morgan for the setting up of such a Council and "carry it to its logical conclusion."

All members of the Commission except Per Federspiel of Denmark agreed with the suggestion. At Federspiel's insistence the Commission asked the Secretariat to prepare a legal opinion on whether the Commission has the power to establish a Provisional Council of Government.

Meanwhile, the Commission has instructed Pablo Ascarate, head of its advance party in Jerusalem, to open consultations with the Ichud Party which has asked for a hearing separate from that granted the Jewish Agency. At the same time, the Commission announced it will meet with representatives of the Agudas Israel, which also asked for separate hearings, at Lake Success either Monday or Tuesday of next week.

The United States is ready to propose truce terms for Palestine and has invited other members of the Security Council to do likewise, Warren Austin announced at an informal meeting of Council members. The meeting heard Council president Dr. Alfonso Lopez of Colombia report his unsuccessful preliminary negotiations on a truce with Jewish and Arab emissaries. He suggested that British troops who remain in Palestine after May 15 be responsible for law and order from that date on. United Kingdom representative Sir Alexander Cadogan said he would forward this suggestion to his government.

The truce talks between Dr. Lopez and the interested parties will continue. It was made clear today that the Council intends to take the initiative in developing a basis for cessation of hostilities if the two parties remain deadlocked.

ARABS SHELL TEL AVIV FOR SIX HOURS WHILE ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE IS IN SESSION

TEL AVIV, April 9. (JTA) -- Arabs launched a six-hour mortar attack on Tel Aviv from Jaffa last night while the 77-member Zionist Actions Committee was discussing the attitude which Palestine Jewry is to take towards the American trusteeship plan and debating whether the Jews of Palestine can depend on the good will of the Western Powers at the present time.

The shelling began shortly before midnight, causing damage to a number of buildings and injuring several people. A spokesman for Haganah charged today that British troops joined the attack, using artillery. The Actions Committee, nevertheless, continued its session until the early morning hours.

During the debate, the left-wing opposition in the Committee maintained that Palestine is only a single phase in the struggle now developing between the Western and the Eastern blocs. The left-wing delegates insisted that Jewish aims run counter to British imperialism. However, David Ben Gurion told the session that the Jews "must not rely on any single power." Pointing out that there can be peace between the East and the West, he said that "our place in the international field is to seek peace between nations."

Ben Gurion Outlines Immediate Jewish Objectives

Appealing for total Jewish support for the United Nations, Ben Gurion listed the following immediate objectives of the Jewish people: 1. Creation of a Jewish state; 2. Securing Jewish-Arab agreement; 3. International peace through the U.N. He said America's reversal on partition was not sufficient reason for the Jews to abandon the United Nations, and characterized the U.S. policy shift as a greater blow to the U.N. than to the Jews.

Asserting that the Arabs could not defeat the Jewish military forces, he declared: "Once we have proved to them that we can neither be destroyed nor dominated, that we cannot be treated like Jews have been treated in other countries, there will be a change in the Arab attitude and a possibility for understanding. Only then will the idea of Arab-Jewish cooperation become a reality."

Other speakers at the session included Mrs. Goldie Meirson, who said that the struggle in Palestine was the responsibility of Jews all over the world, and stressed the need for "manpower and practical means" for Palestine's Jews, and Dr. Aryeh Altman, Revisionist leader, who proposed that a Jewish state be set up in the whole of Palestine, since the U.N. partition boundaries no longer apply. Dr. Moshe Sneh insisted that the Zionist movement "must give up its illusion that the Western World will help in achieving its aim of a Jewish state."

Earlier, the Actions Committee reviewed the problem of bringing the Jewish dissident groups now operating in Palestine under national discipline prior to reaching an agreement with them. Laborite delegates expressed opposition to such an agreement, but all other representatives are in favor of setting up a central Jewish authority.

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO AND FROM COUNTRY; EFFECTIVE APRIL 21

JERUSALEM, April 9. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government announced today that it will suspend the issuance of all visas to and from Palestine beginning April 21.

A Jewish Agency spokesman disclosed that the Agency's official reply to the truce appeal issued this week by High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham was turned over to Sir Alan today. Contents of the reply, however, were not disclosed.

It was officially announced that the water situation in Jerusalem has improved following the repair of a mined water main from Ras el Ain. Later reports, however, said explosions in the area of the central pumping station had been heard.

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ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ORDERS EVACUATION OF 15,000 JEWISH DP'S FROM NORTH TO SOUTH

MILAN, April 9. (JTA) -- Evacuation of 15,000 Jewish refugees from DP camps in northern Italy to camps in the southern part of the country was ordered today by government authorities. The order caused profound depression among the displaced Jews who have adjusted themselves to conditions of life in the northern camps where they have been residing for many months.

The order follows the transfer of 2,500 displaced Jews this week from the largest Jewish DP camp, Adriatico, near here, to a camp near Bari. Vocational schools established by ORT in the Adriatico camp were closed today, as a result of the liquidation order.

Representatives of the ORT left today for southern Italy to arrange for the transfer to that area of 55 vocational training schools and workshops maintained by the organization for the displaced Jews in the north. More than 1,200 students have been attending these schools regularly, it was pointed out.

Although under the existing agreement with the Italian Government the ORT schools could have remained in northern Italy, their removal was necessitated by the fact that parents and relatives of the students will be moved to the south under the new evacuation orders. A new agreement was reached following the arrival here from Geneva of Dr. A. Syngalowski, executive chairman of the World ORT Union.

The new accord provides that the ORT surrender the right to maintain its schools in northern Italy, but permits continuation of those schools whose successful operation depends on the relations which ORT enjoys with various north Italian industries offering employment opportunities to ORT graduates. All other vocational schools maintained by the organization, however, must be moved to the south.

JEWISH VETERANS IN BRITAIN INTENSIFY FIGHT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITIC STREET RALLIES

LONDON, April 9. (JTA) -- Adopting new tactics to combat anti-Semitism in this country, the British Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women today embarked on a campaign of erecting its own speakers platforms in all places where pro-fascist and anti-Semitic street speakers are accustomed to holding meetings.

At several such street corners, where hundreds have usually turned out to listen to the inflammatory remarks of the anti-Semitic speakers, reports indicate that these same crowds are now flocking around the Jewish veterans' rostrums. Major Lionel Rose, who is spearheading the drive with the slogan, Democracy Hits Back, declared today that "we shall fight them and defeat them."

EARLIEST KNOWN MANUSCRIPT OF BOOK OF ISAIAH DISCOVERED BY AMERICAN SCHOLAR

NEW HAVEN, Conn., April 9. (JTA) -- The earliest known manuscript of the entire book of Isaiah has been discovered in Palestine, it was announced today by Prof. Millar Burrows of Yale University, director of the American School of Oriental Research at Jerusalem.

The manuscript was found in a well preserved scroll of parchment. Dr. John C. Trever, also of the American School, examined it and recognized the similarity of the script to that of the Nash Papyrus--believed by many scholars to be the oldest known copy of any part of the Hebrew Bible. This discovery is particularly significant since its origin is dated around the first century B.C.E. Other complete texts of Isaiah are known to exist only as recently as the ninth century C.E.

LY 170,000 JEWISH CHILDREN REMAIN IN EUROPE OF A PRE-WAR POPULATION OF 1,500,000

PARIS, April 9. (JTA) -- No more than 170,000 Jewish children in Europe below the age of 18 survived the war, as compared with the 1939 estimate of 1,500,000, it was reported today at the European conference of directors of the Joint Distribution Committee. Practically all of them are being aided by local child-care programs financed by the J.D.C. in all parts of the Continent.

Despite their war experiences, the children's mental and physical health were described as exceptionally good. About 40,000 of them are still living under abnormal conditions in camps for displaced Jews, it was revealed. However, it was emphasized that the birth rate among Jews in the DP camps of Germany is 60 per 1,000 population--the highest in the world--while the infant mortality rate is the world's lowest.

The Joint Distribution Committee, in line with its intensified reconstruction program for Europe's Jewish survivors, has extended 63,000 loans totalling \$5,000,000 to Jews throughout the Continent to aid them re-establish themselves economically, it was reported at a press conference arranged in connection with the parley.

Moses Beckelman, deputy director in Europe, and Noel Aronivici, director of the J.D.C.'s reconstruction program, reported that 25,000 Jews have been helped to become self-supporting in the first three months of this year. Pointing out that the J.D.C.'s aim is "to put itself out of business in Europe," Beckelman asserted that one of the agency's primary objectives is to aid would-be emigrants become self-supporting.

Main features of the reconstruction program, it was revealed, are the J.D.C.-supported vocational training projects, producers cooperatives, loan banks and work projects. More than 37,000 Jews are at present receiving vocational training in ORT schools, while 245 producers cooperatives--chiefly in Poland, where the government has given priority ratings to raw materials assigned to the Jewish cooperatives--are being maintained throughout Europe.

AUSTRIA ARRANGES SPECIAL SHORTWAVE BROADCAST THANKING AMERICAN JEWRY FOR J.D.C. AID

VIENNA, April 9. (JTA) -- Members of the Austrian Government today joined Bronislaw Teichholz, president of the Committee for Refugees and Former Inmates of Concentration Camps, in broadcasting "a message of gratitude" to American Jewry for the aid sent to refugees in Austria through the Joint Distribution Committee.

Teichholz revealed that more than 140,000 Jewish refugees have passed through Austria to date en route to Palestine and Western Europe. About 20,000 transient refugees from East European countries are still in Austria, he said. "There exists no expression of thanks for the aid American Jewry has given to the European Jews," he said. His address was broadcast by short-wave to the United States.

Minister of Interior Oscar Helmer, participating in the broadcast, declared that Palestine is the goal of thousands of Jewish refugees from Poland, Hungary and Rumania who do not wish to remain in Austria. He said that his country admitted the refugees for humanitarian reasons and was offering them food and shelter on the same basis it would aid needy Austrians. He urged American Jews to continue their efforts to resettle the refugees "permanently in Palestine." State Secretary Ferdinand Graf, who also participated in the broadcast, appealed to all nations to "stop the brutal pressure and peaceless wandering of the Jews."

JEWIS IN POLAND RAISE \$200,000 FOR HAGANAH; GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS CAMPAIGN

WARSZAWA, April 9. (JTA) -- The campaign for Haganah in Poland concluded this week with 80,000,000 zlotys (\$200,000) received for the Jewish defense force in Palestine, it was announced here last night at a mass meeting arranged by the Polish Palestine Friendship League. Three members of the Cabinet, as well as several members of Parliament, addressed the gathering.

JEWISH STATISTICAL BUREAU TO PUBLISH DIRECTORY OF AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- A Jewish directory with full information and the latest available statistics of 1,000 principal Jewish communities in the United States will be published by the Jewish Statistical Bureau, it was announced here today by Dr. Ralph Lazrus, president of the institution.

The directory will also list 4,000 smaller Jewish communities, the announcement said. The Jewish Statistical Bureau operates under the auspices of Jewish congregational and rabbinical bodies representing all wings of American Judaism. Roger W. Straus is honorary president of the Bureau.

Because of the scope of the directory and its objectives, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Rabbinical Assembly of America and the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the U.S. and Canada have appointed special committees to cooperate with the Bureau in the publication of the volume. The directory is expected to greatly facilitate Jewish community activities. The last directory of Jews in the U.S. was compiled by the American Jewish Committee 30 years ago.

JEWISH CLUB HONORS BERNARD BARUCH; WILL PRESENT HIM WITH 20-YEAR AWARD

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- Bernard M. Baruch will be the recipient tomorrow of the 20-year award of the Jewish Club in recognition for his "outstanding services to our country and his notable contributions in helping to strengthen democracy in the spirit of Hebrew prophecy."

The award will be presented to him at the twentieth anniversary dinner of the Club, of which Judge Alexander A. Mayper is president. The Jewish Club was founded in 1928 by Judge Jonah Goldstein, Bernard Semel, the late Felix M. Warburg and the late Judge Otto A. Rosalsky.

JEWS IN ARGENTINA PLEDGE AID TO JEWISH CULTURAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK

BUENOS AIRES, April 9. (JTA) -- More than 2,000 Jews attended a meeting here last night addressed by Jacob Pat and Pinchas Gingold, both of New York, which launched a drive for the World Jewish Cultural Congress scheduled to take place this summer in New York. The meeting adopted a resolution expressing the utmost support of Argentine Jewry to the program of the W.J.C.C.

Thousands of Jews filled synagogues throughout the country yesterday in observance of the "Day of Prayer" for Palestine. All Jewish institutions closed their offices at noon to join in the special services. Appeals for aid to Haganah were made in all synagogues.

HAROLD RIEGELMAN AWARDED HIGHEST CHINESE DECORATION FOR SERVICES TO CHINA

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- Harold Riegelman, prominent Jewish leader, was decorated here today with the Order of the Auspicious Star, China's highest civilian award by Chinese Ambassador V.K. Wellington Koo, for services he has rendered the Chinese Government as legal adviser. Riegelman is chairman of the executive committee of the New York Chapter of the American Jewish Committee and a member of its national executive committee.

"HEBREW MONTH" STARTS TODAY THROUGHOUT UNITED STATES TO STIMULATE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- A "Hebrew Month" designed to stimulate Jews in the United States to actively support the program of promoting Hebrew culture in this country will be launched tomorrow by the Histadruth Ivrit, the Hebrew Federation of America. Hebrew educational institutions and Zionist groups throughout the U.S. will participate in the special observances arranged by the organization.

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