

Monday, April 12, 1948

# JTA Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

## ARABS RENEW ATTACK ON SETTLEMENT NEAR HAIFA; JEWS CONSOLIDATE POSITION AT CASTEL

JERUSALEM, April 11. (JTA) -- After an uneasy lull of several days some 1,500 Arab troops under the command of Fawzi el Kaukuji, supreme Arab military leader, today renewed their attack on Mishmar Haemek, east of Haifa, which commands the approach to the Plain of Esdralon.

In a day-long battle, the Arabs succeeded temporarily in driving a wedge into the Jewish defense lines and capturing a hill overlooking the settlement. Artillery was soon crashing shells into the colony, but fierce Jewish counterattacks forced the guerrillas to draw back their guns to avoid capture. As the day ended most of the Arab wedge had been pinched off and the damage to Jewish defense positions largely repaired.

The "battle of the highways," several-week-old campaign for control of Jerusalem-Tel Aviv main road today seemed definitely to be turning in favor of the Jews. In a move to solidify their position in the Arab village of Castel, from which they had once been driven out last week, the Haganah invaded and captured the Arab village of Qalonia, on Castel's flank. In searching the village the Jews found huge stores of ammunition and explosives and with the dynamite blasted every position and building in Qalonia.

In several other mopping-up operations the Jews managed to push the entire Arab perimeter about Castel back so far that shells from Arab mortars and small artillery cannot reach the stronghold. A Jewish convoy is reported to be nearing Jerusalem with reinforcements and arms.

### Jerusalem Shelled by Arab Artillery; Three Jews Killed

Jerusalem was quiet today after being shelled yesterday by Arab batteries of two-pounders, 75 millimeter guns and 105 millimeter howitzers. The guns, brought from Jenin where Kaukuji's headquarters are located, arrived in the Jerusalem area after passing through the British lines without being molested. One report stated that the British sent a delegation of officers to the Arabs to "advise" them against shelling Jerusalem, which had never been shelled previously by heavy artillery. Three Jews were killed and several others wounded by the shells.

Paid service between Palestine and Egypt was interrupted today. The Haganah this week-end drove off an Arab force, including Egyptian volunteers, which assaulted the settlement of Darom. In the north, the Jews finally routed Syrian troops which had been attacking Lahavoth Habashan for nearly a week. A Jewish Agency spokesman today insisted that the Arabs had failed to obtain military victories at Castel, Mishmar Haemek and Lahavoth Habashan on which they had banked to give heavy political support to their representative at Lake Success.

A Jewish central authority, which will assume the functions and responsibilities formerly held by the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Council, will be proclaimed sometime this week, it was decided by the Zionist Committee. The authority, which will be established after its form is worked out by the Actions Committee, will be proclaimed as the government of Jewish Palestine after May 15.

U.S. TO MAKE PROPOSALS FOR TRUCE WHEN U.N. TALKS BETWEEN JEWS, ARABS REOPEN TUESDAY

LAKE SUCCESS, April 11. (JTA) -- The U.N. truce talks presided over by Security Council president Alfonso Lopez of Colombia will reopen Tuesday with the United States presenting proposals to Jamal Husseini and Moshe Shertok, the Arab and Jewish representatives, it was learned here over the week-end.

American representative Warren Austin revealed to newsmen that such proposals will be made through Dr. Lopez. He insisted that both the Jews and the Arabs were very eager to have us make some proposals." He added that "when we ask them to volunteer something they are not in a position to do so."

Austin gave the impression that Husseini and Shertok were both reluctant to make an offer, apparently waiting for the other party to make the first move. Last week Lopez and the two parties all appeared to be in agreement that the attempt to hammer out an armistice was hopeless.

ARAB AGGRESSION FROM OUTSIDE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO TRUCE, SHERTOK TELLS ZIONIST PARLEY

NEW YORK, April 11. (JTA) -- The Security Council in attempting to negotiate a truce between the Jews and Arabs in Palestine has overlooked the most important aspect of the problem--that Palestine has been invaded by foreign Arabs--Moshe Shertok, Jewish Agency leader and Jewish representative at the U.N. truce parley, declared here today. He spoke at an emergency meeting of 1,000 Zionist leaders in New York City convened to mobilize aid for the United Jewish Appeal campaign for \$250,000,000.

He revealed that the Jews have put forward no political conditions for a truce, merely military conditions. He stressed, however, that this was not the situation as far as the Arabs were concerned. "We are faced with political conditions put forward by the other side," he declared. "We cannot possibly accept the interpretation of a truce as a political freezing of the situation for an indefinite period," he added.

Henry Morgenthau, general chairman of the U.J.A. and second featured speaker at the closed meeting, said that the "fate of the Jews in Europe and Palestine will be determined not by what the statesmen decide at Flushing Meadows, nor by the uncertain policy in Washington, but rather by what the Jews of Europe, Palestine and America are able to achieve in this crucial year." Pointing out that the Jews of Europe have demonstrated their "unshakeable determination to find security and a new life," and that the Jewish community of Palestine is paying the "price in blood" for independence and peace, Morgenthau termed the Jews of America "the third important link in this chain of destiny."

"We dare not fail in raising \$250,000,000," he stated, "lest the last light in Europe be extinguished for those who still languish in the DP camps, lest the Jewish community in Palestine lose its last dependable ally in its struggle for existence," the former Secretary of the Treasury said.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, declared in a special message to the conference that the struggle for Palestine is being waged on two fronts--"the front of struggle and blood in Palestine which is now withstanding the test of fire," and the front here. "Ours," he said, "is the economic front, the battle of the all important life-line, of the bridge to our brothers in Palestine."

In a joint cable from Palestine Dr. Israel Goldstein and Dr. Emanuel Neumann stressed that help is urgently needed at this time. Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the Z.O.A. Administrative Committee, declared that the failure of the political activities of the Z.O.A. or of the fund raising efforts of the U.J.A. "may well mean the destruction of our hopes for a Jewish state in generations to come."

NAZIS SENTENCED TO DIE FOR MURDER OF 1,000,000 JEWS AND OTHERS PLAN APPEAL

NUREMBERG, April 11. (JTA) -- Defense attorneys for 14 high Nazi officials sentenced yesterday to be hanged for their part in the murder of more than 1,000,000 Jews and other "racially inferior" peoples have filed appeals against the verdicts of the American military tribunal, it was learned today. The appeals are expected to eventually go to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The 14, headed by Maj. Gen. Otto Ohlendorf, commander of a unit proved responsible for the murder of 90,000 persons during the war, included two generals, ten colonels, one major and a lieutenant. Two other Gestapo men, a general and a lieutenant, were sentenced to life imprisonment, while three officers were sentenced to 20 years and two to ten-year terms. One man, a sergeant, was freed.

Commenting on the conclusion of what has been called the "greatest murder trial in history," Brig. Gen. Telford Taylor, American prosecutor, said that the judgment is a landmark in the campaign against racial intolerance and violence. "The three-man tribunal was headed by Judge Michael Musmanno.

ROMANIAN HIGH COURT REJECTS APPEAL TO SUSPEND DEATH SENTENCE OF CLERGYMAN-WAR CRIMINAL

BUCHAREST, April 11. (JTA) -- The Rumanian Supreme Court rejected an appeal yesterday against a death sentence imposed on Metropolitan Visarion Puiu, who was convicted by the People's Tribunal as a war criminal. Puiu was charged with encouraging and supporting "terrorist measures against Jewish deportees" during the pro-Nazi regime.

Puiu, who was appointed head of the Transnistrian Orthodox Church by Premier Ion Antonescu, is now reportedly living in an Italian monastery. His appeal was received here through the Rumanian legation in Rome.

D.C. PROGRAMS IN EUROPE ENDANGERED UNLESS ADEQUATE FUNDS SUBSCRIBED IN U.S.

PARIS, April 11. (JTA) -- Unless adequate funds are provided by American Jewry for the Joint Distribution Committee program in Europe, the work of the relief agency is endangered despite its years of hectic activity in behalf of DP's and the 500,000 Jewish survivors in Europe, Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, European director of the J.D.C., declared here at a press conference.

The conference was held at the conclusion this week-end of an all-Europe party of J.D.C. directors in various countries who evaluated their past performances and laid plans for future programs. Edward M.M. Werburg, chairman of the J.D.C., and Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman, were also present during the press conference.

Although American Jews have provided tens of millions of dollars since VE-Day, the task is far from complete, Dr. Schwartz stressed. He added that without continuation of that aid some 800,000 Jews in Europe, the Middle East, Cyprus and North Africa will be in desperate circumstances this year. He revealed that the J.D.C. has received very little in the way of financial assistance in the form of reparations from the International Refugee Organization, but that he hoped much more would be made available in 1948.

Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, in a transatlantic radio broadcast from Paris today, called on the Jews of the United States to give their fullest support to the Jews of Europe during the "crucial months that lie ahead." In the face of new disappointments, the European Jews have not lost their courage, Rabbi Wise emphasized.

CANADIANS CAN JOIN VOLUNTEER FORCES FOR PALESTINE, FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS

Ottawa, April 11. (JTA) -- Commenting on press reports that the Cabinet may shortly issue an order preventing Canadian Jews from volunteering in the Jewish armed forces in Palestine, Minister for External Affairs Louis St. Laurent today declared that Canadians are not barred from joining any of the fighting groups in Palestine for the time being.

No action has been taken to extend the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act to Palestine, the Minister said. However, he emphasized that he was not in a position to say whether or not such action would be taken in the future.

ORTHODOX RABBINICAL GROUP APPEALS TO TRUMAN FOR U.N. PROTECTION FOR JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, April 11. (JTA) -- An appeal to President Truman for immediate action to save Jerusalem in the present conflict in Palestine was made public today by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of America. The telegram to the President was signed by the Praesidium of the Union and 530 other Orthodox rabbis.

The message expressed horror over the "desecration which armed Arab gangs have been permitted to perpetrate" in the holiest precincts of the city. They pointed out that Jews have been denied access to the ancient Wailing Wall, holiest sanctuary of Israel, which has been "profaned by armed hooligans" and that the entire city with its population of 100,000 Jews has been isolated by hostile forces which seek to starve and destroy them.

The telegram recalled that under the General Assembly's resolution of November 29, 1947, Jerusalem was to be internationalized "as the common heritage of all mankind." It added: "We therefore beg of you and through you of our government that immediate action be taken to establish forthwith international trusteeship for the city and to effectuate the decision of the United Nations including the recruitment of a non-Palestinian force to keep the peace in the holy city."

Similar telegrams were sent to Cardinal Spellman asking for his assistance, to Karel Lisicky, chairman of the United Nations Palestine Commission urging that the Palestine Commission take immediate action, and to Sir Alexander Cadogan urging that the United Kingdom take immediate steps to remove the threat hanging over Jerusalem so long as it is responsible for law and order under the Mandate.

266 EUROPEAN REFUGEE-IMMIGRANTS ARRIVE IN NEW YORK; AIDED BY USNA AND HIAS

NEW YORK, April 11. (JTA) -- Two hundred and sixty-six European refugee immigrants arrived here during the week-end aboard the Marine Marlin. Included among them was a group of 25 orphans.

The refugees were met by relatives and representatives of the United Service for New Americans which is responsible for the welfare of 46 of them and the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society which supplied affidavits for 32 of the DP's who sailed from Bremerhaven. The orphans were brought to this country by the U.S. Committee for the Care of European Children. Immigration arrangements for the USNA DP's were made by the Joint Distribution Committee.