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PLAN TO IMPLEMENT PALESTINE TRUCE PROPOSED AT SECURITY COUNCIL; GROMYKO ATTENDS

LAKE SUCCESS, April 12. (JTA) -- A plan to implement truce in Palestine by a United Nations Commission which would be sent there for this purpose was presented today to the meeting of the U.N. Security Council held at the offices of the American delegation. No details of the plan, however, were released to the press.

Soviet delegate Andrei Gromyko was present today for the first time at the informal consultations on Palestine which have been conducted by members of the Security Council for the past two weeks. He indicated that his interest was confined strictly to the question of a Palestine truce and that he is still abstaining from participating in any discussions on the American trusteeship proposal for Palestine.

No final decision on the truce plan was taken at today's meeting, since U.S. delegate Warren A. Austin made it plain that any tentative cease-fire agreement reached at the conference would be subject to final approval in Washington insofar as the American delegation was concerned. Concrete suggestions were put forward by General McNaughton of Canada and by several other delegates.

Further consultations with Jewish and Arab representatives on securing a Palestine truce are contemplated, Dr. Alfonso Lopez, president of the Security Council, told representatives of the press. Another informal meeting of members of the Council will be held to draw up a formal resolution on the truce plan for action by the Council, he revealed.

Further Discussion on U.S. Trusteeship Plan Suspended

Meanwhile, further discussion on the American trusteeship plan was suspended pending the final outcome of the truce discussions. At today's meeting, Senator Austin called upon the British Government to assume responsibility for the protection of the Holy Places in Jerusalem. However, the fate of these sites after May 15 was left undetermined.

The British Government today named Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech-Jones as the head of its delegation to the special U.N. General Assembly on Palestine which opens Friday at Flushing Meadows. Most of the 57 member states of the U.N. will be represented at the meeting by their permanent delegations at Lake Success.

The U.N. Palestine Commission, after having completed and unanimously approved the final draft of its 56-page report for the special General Assembly meeting, will meet tomorrow to hear representatives of the Agudas Israel World Organization state their views on the establishment of the Provisional Council of Government of the Jewish state.

The Agudas Israel and the Ichud Party are the only two Palestine Jewish groups which asked for separate consultations with the Commission. All other Jewish organizations had stated previously they desired to be represented by the Jewish Agency.

ATTAIN CHARGES JEWS WITH BEING FIRST TO OPEN FIRE IN BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM ROADS

LAKE SUCCESS, April 12. (JTA) -- The British Government today charged that the Jews in Palestine were the first to open fire in the battle for free convoy traffic to Jerusalem. The charge was made in a letter presented by the British delegation to the U.N. Palestine Commission, the text of which contains the following points:

"1. The maintenance of food supplies for the Jewish population of Jerusalem is largely a matter of ensuring free passage of traffic on the 37-kilometer stretch of the Jerusalem-Jaffa road between Latrun and Jerusalem.

"2. Very early in the disturbances which have occurred in Palestine since November 29, 1947, attacks on traffic using this road were made by both Jews and Arabs. It is difficult to say who initiated these attacks, but it is fairly certain that firing action was first taken by the Jews after their vehicles had been stoned by Arabs in Ramleh.

"3. The situation then developed into a fight for control of the road. The Arabs, no doubt in order to facilitate action by their troops, withdrew all their own vehicles from the stretch of road in question and were then secure in the knowledge that any civilian traffic which they cared to attack must be Jewish.

"4. The Jews then appealed for assistance. During December certain escorts were provided by the Army and the police; but it became the Jewish practice to produce at the convoy rendezvous more vehicles than had been arranged for, with the result that the escort provided was insufficient. The blame for this was laid by the Jews on the government of Palestine.

"5. It will be appreciated that to ensure absolute security on a stretch of road 37 kilometers long, winding through rough and hilly country with frequent steep gradients, it was quickly found that it was useless to rely on large, cumbersome, slow-moving convoys such as the Jews depended upon and to which they resorted against all the advice of the security authorities.

"6. Instead, a system of standing and also highly mobile military and police patrols was instituted with the object of keeping the whole road under constant surveillance. As a result of these measures the situation improved and traffic began to move more freely.

"7. Such Jewish reversals as were then suffered were usually traceable to the employment of the Jews of long slow columns of armored and unarmored vehicles similar to those referred to above.

"8. Meanwhile, efforts were made by the government of Palestine to persuade the Arabs to allow Jewish food convoys to pass unimpeded, provided that nothing but food was carried; that Jewish accompanying personnel were reduced to a minimum; and that the convoys were subject to search at some selected point.

"9. There were indications that the Arabs would be prepared to agree to some such arrangement, but suggested solution was rejected in advance by a Jewish Agency spokesman. Moreover, the situation had by this time developed into a fight for various vantage points dominating the road. The Arab attitude stiffened, and recently Jewish attacks on Castel village further prejudiced the success of these negotiations.

"10. It is emphasized that officials of the Jewish national organizations made no representations to the government of Palestine that the Jews of Jerusalem are facing starvation. On the other hand, they have always alleged that they have plenty of stores and that the present stringency in the Jewish areas of Jerusalem is due to careful and close control and not to real shortages. All indications, however, refute this allegation."

HAGANAH OCCUPIES RAMLEH; ARABS SHELL REHAVIA IN JERUSALEM; JEWISH PLANE SHOT DOWN

JERUSALEM, April 12. (JTA) -- The Arab town of Ramleh, about 15 miles from Tel Aviv, was invaded today by strong Haganah forces. While in Jerusalem, the all-Jewish modern Rehavia section of the city was shelled for a short time by Arab mortars.

Haganah's occupation of the all-Arab town of Ramleh was aimed at loosening Arab control of the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road. The Jewish units searched the town for concentrations of arms and explosives used in attacking Jewish food convoys en route to Jerusalem. The Jews were also hunting foreign Arab bands who have been active along the entire length of the major highway. After several hours the Haganah withdrew from the town but occupied several small Arab villages in the neighborhood.

A Jewish plane was shot down by British and Transjordan troops today and the pilot was reported killed. The Jew was aiding Haganah forces engaged in a battle with the Arab soldiers near Kfar Etzion when the British arrived and fired on the plane.

On the Jerusalem end of the main road the Jews who were earlier reported to have been forced out of Castel, five miles west of Jerusalem, have secured their hold on the village and have expanded their operational perimeter, occupying several villages and setting up road blocks between Jerusalem and Hebron, to the south, and Ramallah, to the north. The Haganah also struck at Arab concentrations on the western fringe of the "Arab triangle"-- Nablus-Jenin-Tulkarm and blew up a bridge near Tulkarm.

At Mishmar Haemek an Arab wedge driven into the defenders lines yesterday was completely eliminated today and the Arabs were forced to retreat beyond the effective range of their own batteries, which gave the Jews their first relief from shelling in over a day. Simultaneously, the Arabs attacked four nearby Arab villages which are occupied by the Jews but were repulsed by strong counterattacks.

Near Rehovoth a British ammunition and arms train was attacked by a group of Jews. In a cafe in the town, several Jews and British soldiers clashed and one Briton was killed. The arms of several of the soldiers were stolen.

The British Army reported that the Jews had attacked Mashi Rabdin, an Arab village near Tiberias in northern Palestine. The report said that huge clouds of smoke were seen rising over the village and that a number of women and children had fled to Tiberias, but that some 40 women and children remained behind.

Country-wide food control in the Jewish areas was instituted today under the direction of Eliezer Perlson, vice-mayor of Tel Aviv. The control board includes representatives of local councils and municipalities, the Jewish Agency, the Jewish National Council and other national institutions.

Following last night's statement by the Jewish Agency condemning the Irgunists and Sternists who killed about 200 Arabs, including many women and children, in capturing the Arab village of Deir Yassan, west of Jerusalem, Friday night, the Palestine Chief Rabbinate today issued a statement voicing horror at the deed. Chief Rabbis Isaac Herzog and Ben Zion Usiel lashed out at the actions of "an irresponsible Jewish minority."

BRITISH NAVAL UNITS INTERCEPT BLOCKADE RUNNER; NUMBER OF REFUGEES ABOARD UNKNOWN

HAIFA, April 12. (JTA) -- British naval units tonight intercepted a blockade runner with an unspecified number of visaless Jewish immigrants aboard, it was officially announced. The vessel, believed named the Tirat Zvi, is expected to arrive in this port about midnight.

PALESTINE JEWS PROCLAIM CENTRAL AUTHORITY; ADOPT "DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE"

TEL AVIV, April 12. (JTA) -- The concluding session of the Zionist Actions Committee voted unanimously to establish immediately a central Jewish authority which will begin functioning officially on May 15. The decision was taken at dawn today after an all-night session.

A "Declaration of Jewish Independence" read by Zalman Rubashov at the final session stated in part: "After 27 years of foreign and atrocious rule over Palestine which the Mandatory Power received as a trust from the world to establish a Jewish National Home, and deceived that trust--the Jewish nation will establish its state and independence in the homeland. The state to be established will be ruled through justice, freedom and equality for all inhabitants, regardless of race or creed."

Calling upon the Palestine Arabs and the neighboring Arab states to assure peace and cooperation, the declaration continued: "Together, we will build the state as citizens with equal rights, in mutual respect for our freedom, which is a sister to yours." It concluded: "Our lives are sacred for the defense of the homeland. The God of Israel will be our assistance!"

The Actions Committee will seek to obtain international recognition of the central Jewish authority from individual governments. It is understood that the new authority will also endeavor to secure an international loan.

The Actions Committee ratified, by a vote of 44 to 32, the Haganah-Irgun military agreement and decided to float an internal loan of \$20,000,000 for defense purposes.

Isaac Gruenbaum announced his resignation from the executive of the Jewish Agency. A motion by Rabbi Judah Fishman urging the Actions Committee to reject the resignation was halted by Gruenbaum, who thanked Rabbi Fishman for his interest.

ATTLEE REJECTS PLEA TO LEGALIZE HAGANAH, EXPEL ARAB INVADERS FROM PALESTINE

LONDON, April 12. (JTA) -- The British Government has rejected a plea by the Board of Deputies of British Jews that the Haganah be given legal status and that Arab invaders of Palestine be expelled by the British Army, it was revealed here today with the release of an exchange of correspondence between Prime Minister Clement Attlee and Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board.

Pointing to the difficulties encountered by British forces in Palestine when they attempted to suppress Jewish extremists, the Prime Minister asserted that rounding up their "Arab counterparts" would prove as difficult. He refused to legalize the Haganah on the grounds that the government refuses to share its responsibility for the maintenance of law and order with any other force. He added that the government would continue to enforce impartially its bans against the increase of stores of offensive weapons by either side, but would not "remove from either community arms which may legitimately be regarded as necessary for their defense" when the British evacuate.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hector McNeill, addressing a meeting of Glasgow University students, denied reports that the British were arming the Arabs in Palestine. He insisted that neither side had received any weapons. He asserted that "no one has shown one piece of evidence" that British arms are filtering through to Palestine.

JEWISH UNITY LOSES MAJORITY IN VIENNA COMMUNITY COUNCIL; ZIONISTS IN SECOND PLACE

VIENNA, April 12. (JTA) -- The Jewish Unity Party, headed by David Brill, incumbent president of the Vienna Jewish Community, received 43 percent of the votes cast in yesterday's community elections, it was disclosed today. Brill's slate captured 11 of the 24 seats on the Community Council.

The party to receive the second largest vote was the Jewish Federation, consisting of all the Zionist groups in the city, which won eight seats. The Jewish Socialist Party will hold the remaining positions.

Within a week the members of the new council will meet to elect a president, who will be either a Zionist or a Socialist, since these two groups have announced that they will cooperate in the council. Seventy-two percent of all eligible voters cast a ballot, including some 1,000 DP's all of whom voted for the Zionist slate.

Two years ago, when the last community elections were held, Brill's slate captured the vast majority of the seats. At that time, however, the united slate included the Zionists as well as tickets representing former concentration camp victims, the International Refugee Committee and the Hungarian Joint Committee.

CZECH GOVERNMENT PROMISES TO INVESTIGATE AGUDAH COMPLAINTS ON RELIGIOUS RESTRICTIONS

PRAGUE, April 12. (JTA) -- A complaint by the Agudas Israel that the Actions Committee of the Prague Jewish Community is restricting certain religious activities will be investigated, a government spokesman today announced. The matter will probably be taken up by the Ministry for Education which has jurisdiction over religious matters and religious groups.

The Agudah originally lodged the complaint with the Czechoslovak Embassy in London and requested that it be forwarded to Prague. The government spokesman pointed out that although the Agudah communication came through Foreign Office channels, the matter would be handled by another ministry. He also revealed that the Actions Committee has already been requested to answer the points raised by Agudah.

PLAN TO MAKE TWO-THIRDS OF RUMANIAN JEWS ON RELIEF SELF-SUPPORTING COMPLETED

BUCHAREST, April 12. (JTA) -- A plan calling for the establishment of urban and rural vocational training schools for Jews in Rumania which would enable two-thirds of the Jews in this country now receiving J.D.C. relief to become self-supporting has been completed, it was learned here today.

The program, which is expected to involve some 40,000 persons over a five-year period, was worked out by the Jewish Democratic Committee, the J.D.C. and other Jewish organizations with the active support of the Rumanian Government.

The plan provides for the establishment of vocational training schools in eight cities, including Bucharest. Graduates of the schools would be entitled to employment after a short-term training period, with the government supplying the necessary premises for the schools, as well as part of the faculty. It is contemplated that 15,000 skilled workers could be turned out by these schools during the first year of operation.

Agricultural training schools in scattered sections of Rumania, which would be set up on government-owned land, are also contemplated in the plan. It is expected that some 2,000 persons could be graduated from these same schools in the first year, with the figure rising to 5,000 in the third year.

POLICE INVESTIGATE EXPLOSION IN FRONT OF JEWISH AGENCY BUILDING IN BUENOS AIRES

BUENOS AIRES, April 12. (JTA) -- Police officials were investigating today the explosion of a bomb last night in front of the local offices of the Jewish Agency. The blast ripped the door of the building from its hinges and caused other damage. No casualties were reported.

MOST OF 15,000 SHANGHAI REFUGEES HAVE BEEN RESETTLED IN U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES

NEW YORK, April 12. (JTA) -- Approximately two-thirds of the 15,000 Jewish refugees who survived the war in Shanghai have been resettled in permanent homes in the United States and other countries, Paul A. Bissinger, of San Francisco, chairman of the Western States Lay Advisory Committee of United Service for New Americans, reported here today.

Most of the Shanghai Jews have been resettled in this country, Bissinger declared. Six thousand of them were afforded shelter and emergency welfare aid by the U.S.N.A. office in San Francisco. Last month, he disclosed, 211 Jews from Shanghai were resettled in 36 cities in 23 states.

Bissinger said that greater progress has been achieved in "clearing up the Shanghai situation than in any other of the areas of distress and homelessness which were left in the wake of the war." He said that the U.S.N.A., working in conjunction with the J.D.C. overseas, had set up a "pilot plant, demonstrating how the still larger problems of displaced persons in Europe and elsewhere can be handled in a humane and constructive way."

FIRST BLOOD BANK FOR PALESTINE TO BE SET UP IN NEW YORK; PHILADELPHIA TO FOLLOW SUIT

NEW YORK, April 12. (JTA) -- The first blood bank for Palestine will be opened soon in this city to provide blood and plasma for the Jewish fighting forces in Palestine. A similar bank will open shortly in Philadelphia and it is expected that additional banks will be set up in cities throughout the United States.

The Red Mogen David shipped 35,000 units of blood purchased in the U.S. to Palestine last month, as well as 25 ambulances. The organization, which will handle the blood bank program, announced that it expects to send another 35 ambulances to Palestine shortly.

DR. LEO BAECK RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE FROM JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION AND U.A.H.C.

NEW YORK, April 12. (JTA) -- Dr. Leo Baeck, president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, today received an honorary degree of Doctor of Hebrew Letters from the Jewish Institute of Religion and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. He has been in this country for several months in connection with the American Jewish Cavalcade.

ATTORNEY GENERAL CLARK URGES REDOUBLED EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF U.J.A. DRIVE IN APRIL

NEW YORK, April 12. (JTA) -- Attorney-General Tom Clark has called upon all Americans to "redouble their efforts" in support of the \$250,000,000 United Jewish Appeal, which he said is "vital at a time when the United States and other democratic nations are doing everything possible to bring some measure of assistance and security to those who have suffered immeasurably in recent years as a result of persecution of war." His statement was contained in a letter to former Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the U.J.A., in connection with the observance of April as U.J.A. Freedom Month.

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