

Friday, April 16, 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. SECURITY COUNCIL ADJOURNS WITHOUT VOTING ON RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PALESTINE TRUCE

LAKE SUCCESS, April 15. (JTA)--The U.N. Security Council tonight adjourned a session without voting on the proposed resolution for a truce in Palestine. The Council, voting on a motion by Ukrainian delegate Vasily Tarassenko, decided to consider the matter again at a session opening tomorrow night at 9.

The Soviet Union's Andrei Gromyko, backing Tarassenko, added that he had not yet received instructions from his government. He asked for either a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ or a 4-hour adjournment. American delegate Warren R. Austin opposed the adjournment until tomorrow, offering instead a night session tonight. In the vote on the adjournment eight states voted for it, Canada opposed and Syria and Argentina abstained.

(See full report of Security Council session on Page 1.)

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N. ASSEMBLY OPENS TODAY; U.S. WARNS AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT OF JEWISH GOVERNMENT

LAKE SUCCESS, April 15. (JTA)--On the eve of the opening of the second special session of the U.N. General Assembly to discuss the future government of Palestine, the United States today served notice that should the U.N. Palestine Commission proceed with the its plans to set up a Provisional Council of Government for the Jewish State, it would be considered a breach of the political and military truce sought by the Security Council.

The warning was voiced by U.S. delegate Warren R. Austin during a discussion at the Security Council at which the Palestine truce resolution was presented by President Alfonso Lopez for a vote. The resolution (the text of which was published in yesterday's JTA Bulletin) was strongly supported by Austin who also pleaded with the Jews and the Arabs for its acceptance.

The U.S. delegate warned the Council that time is short, that the British administration alone exercises governmental authority in Palestine until May 15 and that no other authority can lawfully bear arms there. Not even the United Nations can send in an armed force so long as the British Mandate is in force, except at the invitation of the Mandatory Power, he pointed out.

General A.G.L. McNaughton of Canada also spoke in favor of the truce resolution and appealed to the Jews and Arabs to accept it. He emphasized that the proposal "is the product of a cooperative effort by several delegations, whose main desire was to find a fair and equitable basis on which there might be an immediate cessation of acts of violence in Palestine, without prejudice to the rights, claims or positions of the parties concerned."

Shertok Says Truce Proposal "Loads the Dice;" Outlines Jewish Conditions

Moshe Shertok, speaking on behalf of the Jewish Agency, pointed out that the whole question of a truce in Palestine had been raised in the Security Council as part of a general proposal to set aside the General Assembly's resolution on partition, and substitute an entirely different plan which the Agency found "utterly unacceptable."

The very idea of a truce proposal brought forward in this way appeared to "load the dice" against Jewish interests, he declared. In addition, the wording of the resolution already adopted on the truce ignored the main aspect of the Palestine problem--"invasion by armed forces from outside," organized by the Arab states and "tolerated" by the Mandatory Power. They constituted a "permanent act of aggression," he said.

However, Shertok continued, the Agency had declared itself willing to enter into a truce arrangement, provided that the truce was an effective one and not a mere cover for the preparation of further aggression, and provided that observance of the truce did not prejudice the main issue at stake or impede Jewish immigration. He emphasized that in the truce talks with the president of the Security Council, the

ney had made only two stipulations, both of a military rather than a political character. These stipulations were that all foreign armed forces be removed from Palestine and further armed incursions prevented.

Truce Must Not Impede Jewish Immigration, Shertok Stipulates

The truce plan, Shertok noted, called on the Mandatory Power to maintain order. Thus, it appeared that the duration of the truce was limited to the short period between now and May 15, when the Mandate was to be terminated. His other comments would be based on this assumption, he said.

Shertok suggested a change in the preamble so that the Mandatory Power, in its "recent record," would not be formally assured of full international support for its acts. He thought prohibition against the entrance of persons "capable of bringing arms" would affect Jewish immigration. The Jews could not agree that Jewish immigrants, whatever their age group, could be thus put on the same footing with armed bands now being sent to Palestine to break the law and disturb the peace, he declared.

The ban on political activity is too vague, Shertok continued. He suggested that it be deleted from the text, or the wording changed to "any action which might prejudice the rights or position of either community under the Mandate and the partition resolution of the General Assembly," a resolution which he termed still fully valid."

Opposes British Supervision of Truce in Palestine

Stressing that the British Government "has forfeited its title to Jewish cooperation," Shertok said that the Jewish Agency would nevertheless be prepared to cooperate in certain spheres, "where we would regard cooperation as necessary and warranted, but there can be no question of our pledging general cooperation to the British Administration which has so manifestly disregarded and acted contrary to its most basic responsibilities."

With regard to Britain supervising the truce, Shertok said: "The Jewish Agency cannot possibly agree that the Mandatory Administration is impartial in the present conflict and can properly be entrusted in this highly responsible task which requires complete objectivity."

Finally Shertok regretted the absence of a clear provision to evacuate or at least immobilize the Arab bands in Palestine. "They are," he said, "a constant irritant and perpetual source of danger." He spoke of the "responsibility of the Arab states" and the Mandatory Power for the "intolerable situation" caused by the "armed invasion" of Palestine, and said there were reliable reports that the Arab states, encouraged by the inaction of the Security Council, planned to take over all of Palestine as soon as the British withdraw.

Syrian Delegate Wants Jewish Immigration Halted, Partition Efforts Stopped

Syrian delegate Faris El Khouri said he would vote for the truce proposal on the condition that Jewish immigration to Palestine is halted and all partition efforts stopped. If the Jews insist on the conditions outlined by Shertok, he stated, then it would be "useless" to go on.

Earlier, the Palestine Commission submitted a memorandum to the Council stressing the "urgent need for the immediate shipment of not less than 25,000 pounds of wheat flour to Palestine," warning that starvation would follow if this action were not taken.

ARAB ARMY SURROUNDED IN MISHMAR HAEMEK BATTLE; KAUKUJI FLEES FROM SCENE OF BATTLE

JERUSALEM, April 15. (JTA)--Fawzi Kaukuji, commander of the Arab forces in Palestine, today fled the Mishmar Haemek battlefield to Amman, capital of Transjordan, to seek aid for his army of 1,500 men trapped by a superior Jewish force on the approach to Jenin, northernmost stronghold of the Jenin-Nablus-Tulkarm triangle which more than 7,000 foreign Arab troops are reported concentrated.

Kaukuji is said to have conferred with King Abdullah and asked that he order the Transjordan Arab Legion to invade Palestine and extend his control over the entire country. (In Cairo Transjordan's Foreign Minister, Fawzi Mulki, indicated that the Transjordan Arab Legion would intervene in the conflict to rescue the surrounded Arab guerrillas if they prove unable to break out of the Jewish trap.)

The Arab army, which is believed to be Kaukuji's main striking force--composed chiefly of Iraqi and Syrian volunteers--is reported completely surrounded just below the Arab village of Lajjun to which it was forced to retreat within the last two days following an unsuccessful week-long assault on Mishmar Haemek, southeast of Haifa. The Haganah this afternoon occupied Lajjun, which is roughly halfway between Mishmar Haemek and Jenin.

The condition of the trapped Arabs is growing worse hourly as the Jews use captured enemy batteries to smash defensive points and roadblocks hastily erected by the guerrillas. As the battered flanks of Kaukuji's army crumbles the road to Jenin is opening up before the Jews.

The units, which opened the Arabs' long heralded "spring campaign," have lost more than 200 men in the last 24 hours, including the British commander of the artillery detachment. The Jews also captured three heavy and four light cannon and three Arab armored cars.

Jews Win Battle for American-Built Camp; 21 Arabs Killed

Jewish troops are in full possession of Camp Tel Litwinsky, six miles east of Tel Aviv and a strategic spot for the protection of Petach Tikvah, after a fierce 12-hour battle in which 21 Arabs were killed and six Jews wounded. The Jews attacked the camp after Arab guerrillas occupied it during the night in an attempt to gain control of the area. British troops withdrew from Tel Litwinsky yesterday.

The camp, constructed by the U.S. Army during the war as a resort for troops in the Middle East, won fame among thousands of Allied troops for its climate and recuperative facilities.

An American military mission, comprising a brigadier general and two colonels, has arrived in Palestine to work out security measures for the U.S. consulate here, it is reliably learned today. At the same time the American Consulate revealed that three U.S. Army planes loaded with a large supply of Army rations have landed at Haifa airport. The food provisions will be set aside for the consulate staff members to avert the event of a food shortage.

The town of Tiberias and the entire region surrounding Lake Tiberias was today placed under a curfew with British troops standing guard around the Jewish quarters of the town. The move followed the blasting of three Arab houses and the killing of one Arab by a Jewish military unit.

The Jewish action was in reprisal for the breaking of a three-week truce in Haifa by a gang of Arabs who killed ten Jews and wounded 18 others in an attack last week. The Arabs insisted that the attack came from an outside bank of guerrillas and the Jews are convinced that the attack originated locally. In another attack on a guerrilla force in a nearby village the Haganah killed eight armed Arabs.

FASSISTS ATTACK JEWS IN ROME; POLICE PATROL STREETS OF JEWISH SECTION OF CITY

ROME, April 15. (JTA)--Police were today patrolling Rome's ancient Jewish ghetto quarter following a riot last night when some 200 fascists invaded the area and began beating up Jews.

The fascists, members of the Italian Social Movement Party, marched into the ghetto quarter singing fascist songs and shouting: "Death to the Jews." When the Jewish inhabitants, including many women and children who were in the streets at the time, booed the fascists they started swinging rubber truncheons.

Police arrived on the scene after four persons were injured seriously and many others including women less seriously, and drove the demonstrators out of the district. Before the arrival of the police, however, the fascists succeeded in desecrating a monument to the thousands of Italian Jews massacred by the Nazi occupation army during the war.

POLISH GOVERNMENT ORDERS INVESTIGATION OF JEWISH POLICE WHO SERVED IN WARSAW GHETTO

WARSAW, April 15. (JTA)--The Justice Department announced today that it has ordered a special investigation of Jewish police officials who served in the Warsaw ghetto during the German occupation. The action was taken following receipt of requests that the former policemen be checked by the authorities as possible collaborators.

Heinrich Nolte, Gestapo chief of Kalisz from 1940-1945, was sentenced to death today for participating in the murder of thousands of Jews in that area. Nolte was also found guilty of torturing many Jews who were brought to his headquarters for questioning.

An official announcement disclosed that among top war criminals still awaiting trial in Poland is General von Stropp, liquidator of the Warsaw Ghetto. It is expected he will be tried shortly.

AMERICAN MILITARY COURT IN AUSTRIA TO TRY 12 NAZIS WHO MURDERED HUNGARIAN JEWS

VIENNA, April 15. (JTA)--Twelve former Gestapo officers and men charged with murdering a large number of Hungarian Jewish slave laborers and American prisoners of war in 1946 will go on trial before an American military tribunal in Salzburg April 19, it was announced here today.

The Gestapo men murdered their prisoners on Easter Sunday when their unit was ordered to evacuate the concentration camp before it was overrun by the advancing Allied armies.

SLOVAK GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE 2,000 PASSPORTS FOR JEWS EMIGRATING TO PALESTINE

BRATISLAVA, April 15. (JTA)--Between 1,000 and 2,000 passports will be issued soon by the Slovak Government to Jews desiring to emigrate to Palestine, Daniel Okaly, head of the Slovak Home Department declared here today. He made the statement during an interview with Dr. Vojtech Winterstein, secretary general of the Association of Racial Persecutees.

JEWISH GROUPS IN BULGARIA UNITE IN FUND-RAISING EFFORT FOR FIGHTING FORCES IN PALESTINE

SOFIA, April 15. (JTA)--All Jewish groups in Bulgaria, including the Communists, have united to launch an intensive fund-raising campaign in behalf of the Jewish fighting forces in Palestine, it was announced here today. Campaign leaders predicted that 10,000,000 leva (\$35,000) would be collected in the near future.

MAN INSISTS HE HAS "NEVER RETREATED" FROM HIS STAND ON PALESTINE PARTITION

WASHINGTON, April 15. (JTA)--President Truman told two White House callers this morning that he has "never retreated" from his stand in support of the partition of Palestine.

Sen. Francis J. Myers of Pennsylvania and David L. Lawrence, Mayor of Pittsburgh, told reporters after their call that the President reiterated his belief that the United States-proposed trusteeship plan be instituted in Palestine should be temporary and that the important thing at the moment is to "establish the atmosphere of peace in Palestine."

One hundred and eighty members of Congress--30 Senators and 150 Representative members of all parties, met last night at an off-the-record dinner meeting to hear Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver and Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, and to discuss with them the future of Palestine. Invitations to attend the dinner meeting were issued to all members of Congress by a bi-partisan group of eight Senators and Representatives.

A petition to declare Jerusalem an open city under the protection of the United Nations was endorsed yesterday by 22 clergymen of the Washington area attending a meeting of the committee on religious life in the nation's capital. It is planned to circulate the petition among other clergymen and then send it to the State Department and the United Nations.

A "pilgrimage" to Washington arranged for today by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish State was disavowed in a statement by the Jewish War Veterans of America. The statement pointed out that "Communism, both foreign and domestic, has been availing itself of the Palestine crisis to pose as the friend and defender of minority peoples." It expressed the belief that "the sponsors of the demonstration in Washington are not primarily concerned either with the interests of the United States or the welfare and security of the Jewish people in Palestine."

JEWISH CONFERENCE URGES U.S. GIVE UP TRUSTEESHIP; CHURCHES APPEAL FOR JERUSALEM SAFETY

NEW YORK, April 15. (JTA)--An appeal to the U.S. Government to "withdraw its proposal for trusteeship for Palestine and cooperate with the United Nations in the implementation of the original Palestine partition plan" was made here today by the American Jewish Conference. A resolution embodying the appeal and signed by Louis Lipsky, chairman of the executive committee of the Conference, was sent to Acting Secretary of State Robert A. Lovett, and Sen. Warren R. Austin, chief U.S. delegate to the U.N.

Meanwhile, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America has appealed to Austin to ensure the protection of the Holy Places in Jerusalem. The Council's message voiced support of endeavors to establish a truce in Palestine, but stressed that "we have an especially deep concern for the Holy City of Jerusalem, sacred around the world to those of all three faiths, and containing places whose destruction we cannot accept as permissible."

Signed by Charles P. Taft, Council president, the statement proposed that Jerusalem be declared an "open city" while country-wide efforts to secure a cease-fire continue. Taft suggested that the U.N. Trusteeship Council be assigned immediately full jurisdiction over the city "with a corridor of free access from outside to insure the inhabitants their life blood."

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