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N. PALESTINE SESSION OPENS ON PESSIMISTIC NOTE; STRESS NEED FOR IMMEDIATE TRUCE

FLUSHING MEADOWS, April 16. (JTA) -- In an atmosphere of undisguised pessimism, the special General Assembly session on Palestine opened here today to reconsider the partition decision and decide the future of Palestine.

Emphasizing that this is the third time the Palestine question is being considered by the U.N. Assembly, Ambassador Joao Carlos Muniz of Brazil, who presided in the absence of Oswaldo Aranha, said: "The first condition for the success of the discussions which are to take place here is the full assent of Arabs and Jews alike to the truce resolution of the Security Council."

Only the total suspension of hostilities in Palestine, Muniz said in his opening address, can create a favorable atmosphere which will enable the Assembly to find a solution. Both Muniz and Jose Arce of Argentina, who was elected president of the special session, stressed the existing antagonism between Jews and Arabs and appealed for a broad formula for cooperation.

"The best program the Assembly may choose," Arce said, "would be of less value than an agreement between the Arabs and Jews." He warned that the moment may arise when the strategic interests of the great powers in Palestine may cause both communities to regret their failure to agree on a peaceful solution of their problem.

By secret ballot the Assembly elected Chinese delegate Tingfu F. Tsiang chairman of the Political Committee which will be composed of all 57 member nations and all, together with the Trusteeship Committee, handle the most vital work of the session. Tsiang's election to the presidency of the Assembly was defeated, by a vote of 31-18, when a coalition of Latin American and Arab states supported Arce's candidacy.

Security Council Decision on Truce Held Major Factor

The election of Arce and Tsiang to head the two major U.N. organs involved in the Palestine case was received with apprehension by Jewish circles in view of the previously expressed attitudes of China and Argentina toward partition. It was recalled that in the Security Council both countries maintained a definitely negative attitude toward the implementation of partition.

A heavy cordon of New York police and U.N. security guards was thrown around the Assembly building. Precautionary measures at today's opening session were more extensive than at any previous meeting on Palestine including that of November 29 when the partition resolution was adopted. Each entrance to the building was carefully guarded and visitors were rigidly scrutinized.

Delegates were inclined to lay more stress upon the importance of tonight's Security Council discussion of the truce than upon the purely procedural opening of the Special Assembly. It was felt that if the truce plan is adopted and enforced

will pave the way toward a solution by the Assembly which would be acceptable to Jews and Arabs.

Whether the Council will or will not reach agreement on the terms of a general truce tonight--and this depends largely upon the attitude of the Soviet and Ukrainian delegations--the paramount importance of enforcing peace in the city of Jerusalem was emphasized by many delegates as a move which may lead to peace throughout Palestine. It was pointed out that even under the partition proposal all parties concerned agreed that Jerusalem is to be under U.N. trusteeship and governed by a U.N. appointed administrator.

Delegates Point Up Hope for Swift Peace in Jerusalem

Because Jerusalem is held sacred by the three major faiths and especially because of the pleas sent by non-Jewish religious leaders to the U.N. urging speedy action to halt bloodshed in Jerusalem, it is expected that whatever the outcome of general truce negotiations something will be done within the next few days to insure peace in the Holy City under international supervision. Such a peace, it is assumed, would have a beneficial effect upon the whole Palestine situation and would enable the Assembly to proceed with its work in a less impassioned atmosphere.

The afternoon session was devoted to electing presidents and vice-presidents of the six major committees which, with the president of the General Assembly, constitute the powerful steering committee which regulates the Assembly's agenda. Of major importance was the election of Sir Carl Berendsen, of New Zealand, as chairman of the Trusteeship Committee which will have primary responsibility for drafting the proposed Palestine trusteeship.

Nasrollah Entezam of Iran was elected chairman of the Legal Committee which, under present circumstances, may play a decisive role since it can be called upon to decide whether or not the U.N. Palestine Commission should continue its work of implementing partition or should abstain from further action pending the decision of the Assembly on the future government of Palestine.

Shertok Asks Clarification of British Role During Truce Period

Moshe Shertok, in a letter addressed to Dr. Alfonso Lopez, president of the Security Council, today called for clarification of the Council's truce resolution stating that the Mandatory Power shall "retain the freedom of action by its own devices."

"Unless some clarification to the contrary is forthcoming, the Mandatory Power will be deemed to be authorized by the Security Council to carry out its operations and activities even to the prejudice of the conditions upon which the maintenance of the truce depends," Shertok pointed out.

The Assembly adjourned late this afternoon and will resume Monday morning.

(The New York State Democratic Party today officially disassociated itself from President Truman's Palestine policy in adopting a resolution presented by Edward Flynn, former national chairman, urging that partition be effected without delay.

(The resolution reads: "We recognize that the only just solution to the Palestinian problem is the establishment of a Jewish democratic commonwealth within the Holy Land as contemplated by the partition program of the United Nations General Assembly. We urge in the interests of justice and world peace that the partition program be implemented without delay as the best solution of a critical solution.")

JEWS CAPTURE VITAL ARAB VILLAGE ALONG JERUSALEM ROAD; LULL IN MISHMAR HAEMEK BATTLE

JERUSALEM, April 16. (JTA) -- Striking at Arab strongpoints threatening Jewish vehicular traffic along the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem main artery, Haganah forces this morning occupied the strategic Arab village of Saris.

Using mortars and smaller weapons, the Haganah troops swooped down on the heavily-fortified Arab stronghold from the surrounding hills, destroying at least 25 houses in the surprise assault. The village was occupied by Iraqi troops under the command of German officers, who withdrew after a brief exchange of fire.

Saris is the location of the Ras el Ein pumping station for the Jerusalem water line and its control by Jews ensures the city's Jewish population of a fairly stable source of water supply. Haganah headquarters points out that the only remaining Arab-dominated section of the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road is a small area from Bab el Wad to Saris. When this stretch of road, as well as Bab el Wad itself, is seized, the Jews will be in complete control of the vital highway.

Meanwhile, terse dispatches from the Mishmar Haemek battlefield, where a large Haganah unit has succeeded in surrounding the main striking force of Fawzi Kaukji in a major engagement, indicated that fighting in that sector has subsided. However, it was believed here that the lull might be a prelude to an even greater battle than yesterday in which several hundred Arabs were reported killed and Kaukji escaped near capture by fleeing across the border to Transjordan.

A Jewish convoy in the Gaza district, in southern Palestine, was attacked twice by Arab guerrillas while it was en route north, presumably after having delivered supplies to an isolated settlement. One vehicle was disabled and one Jew seriously injured, Jewish sources said. The convoy returned to its base after the Jews inflicted a number of casualties on the raiders.

Jerusalem's electricity supply was threatened yesterday following a huge fire that broke out near the city's electric power station. The blaze, of undetermined origin, destroyed huge stocks of fuel oil and caused dense clouds of black smoke to blanket the city.

A Jewish Agency spokesman said today that the Arab states fear intervention by the Transjordan Arab Legion in the military struggle between Jews and Arabs in Palestine since King Abdullah would attempt to occupy certain parts of the country in line with his "Greater Syria" plans.

The spokesman pointed out that Legion units have recently begun to provide military escorts from Beersheba to Hebron, from Hebron to Jerusalem and from Jerusalem to Ramallah. Emphasizing that the Transjordan troops are contemplating escorting Arab convoys along additional routes, the spokesman asserted that this was a matter of concern not only to the Jews but to Syria and Lebanon as well.

WORLD INFORMATION PARLEY VOTES TO BAR DISSEMINATION OF RACIST PROPAGANDA

GENEVA, April 16. (JTA) -- A resolution aimed at preventing the dissemination of information fomenting racial and national hatred was adopted here today at the World Conference on Freedom of Information by a committee which is preparing a code for freedom of the press.

The resolution also urges member states of the United Nations to take "appropriate measures to encourage the broadest dissemination of such information calculated to develop friendly relations between races and nations based on the objectives and principles of the U.N. Charter."

ROME JEWS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST FASCIST ATTACK; ITALIAN GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES REGRETS

ROME, April 16. (JTA)--A large demonstration protesting yesterday's fascist attack on Jews in the Rome Jewish ghetto quarter was staged here last night in the Rome synagogue.

Earlier, Under-Secretary for Internal Affairs Achille Marazza expressed the Italian Government's regret over the incident to Dr. Raffaele Cantoni, president of the Union of Italian-Jewish Communities, and voiced the government's determination to prevent its repetition. Meanwhile, strong forces of police stood guard today in the Jewish quarter to head off any possible recurrence of the raid, in which several Jews were seriously injured.

INDIA-LONDON AIRLINES REFUSE TO BOOK JEWS BECAUSE THEY CANNOT GET ARAB TRANSIT VISAS

LONDON, April 16. (JTA)--Airlines operating between India and London and New York are refusing to book passage for Jewish passengers because they are unable to obtain Saudi Arabian and Iranian transit visas for them, it was learned here today. The transit visas are required for the one-hour refuelling stops that most of the planes on the India-London-New York run make.

Meanwhile, the Colonial Office today assured an Agudas Israel delegation that it will do its utmost to secure food supplies for Jerusalem. The deputation told a Colonial Office representative that it considers the British Government responsible for assuring the entry of food supplies into the Holy City until May 15. A high Colonial Office representative told the Agudah delegates earlier that he will intervene to obtain the necessary import licenses from the Palestine Government for the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada to send kosher food parcels into the country.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT WITHDRAWS LICENSES FOR EXPORT OF ARMS TO LEBANON AND SYRIA

PARIS, April 16. (JTA)--The French Government has withdrawn export licenses granted to private munitions firms which have obtained contracts for the delivery of huge quantities of arms and ammunition to Lebanon and Syria, it was reported here today. A furor was raised within the government several weeks ago when it was learned that one minister had granted the licenses without prior consultation with other members of the Cabinet.

A mass meeting arranged by the French League for a Free Palestine was halted last night by pro-Arabs in the audience. Police, explaining they could not legally interfere since the meeting was public, advised the League to cancel the rally.

DISPLACED JEWS IN BELSEN APPEAL TO U.N. FOR SWIFT ADMISSION TO PALESTINE

BELSEN, April 16. (JTA)--Displaced Jews here marked the third anniversary of their liberation from the infamous Bergen-Belsen concentration camp today by staging a protest meeting against the delay in their emigration to Palestine.

The meeting adopted a resolution urging the United Nations to put "an end to our homelessness which compels us to remain dependent on the favors and compassion of others. We cannot afford to celebrate as our blood is being shed now in the struggle for the future of our people. Let us return at last to the one place where the heart of the Jewish people beats--Eretz Israel."

JEWISH BUSINESSES WRECKED IN RIOTING IN BOGOTA, AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE REPORTS

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA)--Virtually all Jewish business establishments were wrecked during the recent rioting in Bogota, and the Jewish community of that city is utterly devastated, according to a report received by the American Jewish Committee here today. This information was contained in a communication to Dr. John Dawson, executive vice-president of the Committee, from Maximo Yagupsky, head of the A.J.C. office in Buenos Aires, who is in Bogota attending the Inter-American Conference.

"Jewish business has been completely destroyed," Yagupsky said. "Everything was burned and ransacked. It seems as though the Jews have been ruined." A survey of the destruction has been undertaken under the auspices of Yagupsky, who asserted that aid is urgently needed from other Jewish communities to help re-establish Jewish economic life in the city.

The A.J.C. representative is in Bogota to present the Committee's recommendations on the human rights declaration scheduled to be drafted by the Inter-American Conference. Among the basic recommendations urged by the Committee for the proposed Declaration of the International Rights and Duties of Man are the right of freedom of movement from one country to another, the right of freedom of speech and expression in any language, safeguards against restrictions of religious worship and measures to eliminate discrimination in the granting of nationality.

JEWES OF LIBYA LIVE IN STATE OF TERROR, ITALIAN JEWISH LEADER SAYS; GHETTO IS HAVEN

ROME, April 16. (JTA)--"Libya's Jews are today living in an atmosphere of terror," Dr. Raffaele Cantoni, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, reported here today. "Any rumor, any threat uttered by even a small Arab boy, send the Jews in panic-stricken terror to the ghetto which they had abandoned during the Italian administration, but where they feel safer now, because the old Jewish quarter is easier to defend from Arab attack," he added.

Dr. Cantoni said he had obtained confidential information concerning a statement issued in 1946 by the president of the Jewish communities of Libya expressing "full solidarity" with the aims of the Libyan Unity Party, a member organization of the Arab League. He also recalled that several days after the statement was issued, Zionist youth groups in Libya announced their affiliation with the same Arab organization.

"From confidential sources," Dr. Cantoni declared, it has been established that "this statement (and the subsequent announcement by the Jewish youth groups) was made under the severest moral pressure, under threats, allurement and blackmail and under the increasing fear of a repetition on an even larger scale of the 1945 pogrom in which 130 Jews lost their lives."

JEWISH DELEGATIONS FROM MANY COUNTRIES ARRIVE IN WARSAW FOR GHETTO MEMORIAL CEREMONIES

WARSAW, April 16. (JTA)--Jewish delegations from several foreign countries arrived here today to attend the unveiling ceremonies of the Warsaw Ghetto monument, which will be held Monday, April 19, the fifth anniversary of the ghetto revolt.

The delegations include A. Zuchovitzki, of the Jewish Agency and Jewish National Fund offices in Palestine; Abraham Shilonky and Abraham Levinson, of the Histadruth; Dr. Moshe Smeh and L. Zrubavel of the United Workers Party in Palestine; Max Steinberg of the Jewish Labor Council and David Pergament of the Federation of Polish Jews, both from the U.S.

ZIONIST REPORTS DUTCH GOVERNMENT DID NOT OFFER HAVEN TO 30,000 JEWS IN SURINAM

NEW YORK, April 16. (JTA) -- The charge that the Dutch Government has not offered a haven to 30,000 Jewish refugees in Surinam despite an announcement to that effect by the Freeland League last year, has been made here by Mrs. Archibald Silverman, noted American Zionist who visited a number of countries on behalf of the Jewish National Fund and the Palestine Foundation Fund. Mrs. Silverman recently returned from a trip to Dutch Guiana.

Mrs. Silverman, who interviewed a number of government, business and labor leaders in Surinam, stated that the government of the Netherlands colony has agreed to admit some 200 specially trained, physically fit and skilled displaced Jews from Europe who are to lay a foundation for others to follow. The plan, which Mrs. Silverman asserted has not yet been accepted but is still being debated in the government, calls for the clearing of jungles, building of roads and dykes, construction of homes, a hospital, schools and places of entertainment as well as the development of agriculture and industry during the first five years, after which the government will decide upon a taxation rate and will lease the land to the Jews for 75 years. She stressed that the Jews will not own the land, merely rent it from the government.

She also insisted that before any contract is signed between the Jews and the government all funds required for completion of the entire resettlement program--\$100,000,000 to \$125,000,000--must be guaranteed in advance and a hospital and technical school must be constructed, financed and staffed by Jewish personnel for the benefit of Jewish settlers and the native population.

In addition, Mrs. Silverman stated that Surinam is in the tropical belt, that the DP's would face many dangerous tropical diseases in establishing their homes and that the jungle would rapidly encroach upon cleared farm lands. Reporting on the population of the colony, she pointed out that of 175,000 persons there are only 900 Jews, most of whom make an extremely modest living. There are no Jewish industrialists or commercial leaders in the colony, she said, adding that many are white-collar workers and professionals.

Freeland League Terms Report "Absolute Distortion of Truth"

The Freeland League, replying to Mrs. Silverman's charges, termed them "an absolute distortion of the truth from beginning to end." A statement issued by the League said that the organization would not go into polemics about the details, but would limit itself "to refuting the main accusation casting doubt on the veracity" of the League's declarations.

"On April 20, 1947," the League's statement said, "a three-member delegation of the Freeland League concluded in Paramaribo a preliminary agreement with the Government commission of Surinam on the main points of the colonization plan. On November 25th, Dr. E. Sassen, delegate of the Netherlands Government, declared before the General Assembly of the United Nations: 'Recently, on the initiative of the state of Surinam and the legislature in that part of the realm, and with the wholehearted support of my government, an agreement was concluded with a Jewish organization named The Freeland League, providing for large-scale resettlement in Surinam, in principle of 30,000 Jews.'"

"On December 4, 1947, in an official letter to the Freeland League, Dr. J.C. Brous, the Governor of Surinam wrote as follows: 'I take this opportunity to state that the coming of this commission (Experts Commission of the Freeland League) is in conformity with the decisions of the Legislative Council of Surinam and of the Netherlands Government to admit 30,000 Jews into Surinam for colonization.'"

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