

Monday, May 3, 1948

JTA Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

SYRIAN INVADERS REPULSED BY JEWS; BRITISH RUSH TROOPS, TANKS GUNS TO PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, May 2. (JTA) -- The Haganah announced today that attacks on five Jewish settlements, on the northeastern border facing Syria, by some 8,000 invading Syrian, Lebanese and Iraqi troops were repulsed yesterday, while the British revealed that they were rushing troops, tanks and heavy guns from Malta and Cyprus to Palestine because of the rapidly "deteriorating situation" which they said had resulted from the Irgun's attack on Jaffa. Meanwhile, the Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem agreed a 48-hour truce in the Katamon quarter following the intervention of Palestine Relief Secretary Sir Henry L. Gurney.

Announcing the dispatching of troops from Mediterranean bases to Palestine, British statement said that "owing to the unwarranted aggression" of the Jews on the Jaffa-Tel Aviv border the Palestine situation had become so serious that it had assumed operational priority over some other British commitments in the Middle East.

A Jewish Agency spokesman commented sharply on the British attitude, asserting that "the situation has only deteriorated in that Jews have been scoring military successes. As long as the Arabs appeared to have the upper hand there was little interference in their aggression," he added.

Arabs Attack on 20 Mile Front; Battles Rage Seven Hours

In beating back the Syrian and Lebanese regulars who invaded Palestine yesterday at dawn the Jews were in very serious danger in at least two of the five settlements. When the Arabs opened up on Kfar Szold and Lehavoth Habashan, southernmost points on the 20-mile front which the Arabs had chosen as their battleground, the Jews were forced back from their outer defensive perimeters and the main buildings of the villages came under shell fire.

Arab armored vehicles at Kfar Szold penetrated the colony's minefields with only two cars being knocked out. Faced with the possibility of complete annihilation, the Jews hurled Molotov cocktails at the armor and then counterattacked the Arab infantry which was marching behind it. In the intense hand-to-hand fighting which resulted, the Arab tanks could not fire into the mass for fear of hitting their own soldiers. After a wedge was driven between the infantry and the tanks, the Jews were able to attack the tanks at close quarters and destroyed several others forcing the Arabs to give up the attack.

Arab casualties in this engagement were reported to be heavy, while the Haganah said only two Jews had been killed and a number wounded. The battles at Dan, Daphneh and Ramoth-Naphtali raged for seven hours before the Arabs were forced to beat a retreat. Arab strength was estimated at some 8,000 men, 18 tanks and armored cars and 15 field guns as well as a heavy concentration of machine guns and mortars.

Relative peace reigned today in the Manshieh quarter of Jaffa in which British troops and Jews traded bullets and shells yesterday. The Jews have been pushed back from some of their hard won positions by the British attack which was launched,

British said, because the Irgun had violated the truce agreement. The British reported 70 Jewish casualties, but the Jews said that the figure was much lower.

Earlier, the Haganah, which had assumed command of the Jaffa positions from the Irgun had agreed to "straighten out" their lines in Manshieh, but would not retreat from posts in the nearby Arab village of Beit Dajan and from positions on the Jaffa-Jerusalem road. The Haganah was also reported to have invaded and occupied the Arab village of Yazur, about five miles from Jaffa.

British Threaten Force to Gain Jerusalem Truce

In Jerusalem, prior to the announcement of the truce, the Jews had occupied the entire Katamon quarter and secured it against Arab counterattack. The British threatened to use troops to enforce an armistice if the Haganah did not agree voluntarily. Eliezer Kaplan, Jewish Agency treasurer, called on Chief Secretary Gurney and protested against the British returning troops to Palestine. He also charged the government with attempting to drive a wedge between the Irgun and the Haganah.

(In London Richard Crossman, former British member of the Anglo-American Inquiry Commission on Palestine, writing in the Sunday Pictorial, urged the United Nations not to stop the Palestine war. He stressed that "there must be a peace settlement - but at the right time;" the Jews and Arabs cannot come to terms until after they have tested their own and each others' strength.)

SECURITY COUNCIL MAY MEET IN SPECIAL SESSION TO CONSIDER NEW ARAB INVASION OF PALESTINE

LAKE SUCCESS, May 2. (JTA) -- After consultation yesterday and today with members of the Security Council, Council president Alexandre Parodi of France was today considering calling a special session of the body to consider the latest developments in the Palestine situation and Moshe Shertok's telegraphed appeal for U.N. intervention to prevent large-scale bloodshed.

Meanwhile, in the light of the developments of the past few days there is developing in United Nations circles the feeling that trusteeship is not a solution which can be imposed on Palestine immediately and that another solution is needed to cope with the seriously deteriorating situation.

Shertok's telegram pointed to the Syro-Lebanese invasion of northeastern Palestine and to reports of projected invasions by Egypt on the south and Iraqi and Transjordan forces from Transjordan. "Jewish defense forces are determined to resist this new phase of the invasion at all costs," the message said, adding: "Unless the Security Council intervenes immediately and effectively to arrest the invasion in its initial stages a war situation is inevitable with large-scale bloodshed and destruction leading to a major conflagration with incalculable consequences."

In a continuing atmosphere of unreality the Political Committee of the U.N. Special Assembly met again yesterday without moving any closer to a decisive stage of accepting or rejecting Palestine trusteeship. Major Aubrey Eban of the Jewish Agency reminded the delegates that the Palestine Mandate ends two weeks from today while the U.N. has not yet begun to consider how trusteeship would be enforced in the light of outright Jewish rejection and fierce Arab objections to the main points of the U.S. working paper--immigration and land purchase; citizenship and virtually dictatorial powers to be vested in a Governor-General.

NO PASSPORTS FOR AUSTRALIANS SEEKING TO FIGHT ON EITHER SIDE IN PALESTINE, MINISTER SAYS

CANBERRA, Australia, May 2. (JTA) -- Arthur A. Calwell, Minister for Immigration, stated here over the week-end that passports would be refused to Australians seeking to fight on either side in Palestine. He added that persons attempting to obtain passports by subterfuge would forfeit all claims to Australian protection.

BRITISH VETERANS IN BRITAIN HOLD MEETINGS IN LONDON AS COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION TO MOSLEY

LONDON, May 2. (JTA) -- The Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen today held four open-air meetings in various parts of London as a counter-demonstration to a torch and rally held yesterday by Sir Oswald Mosley and a number of British fascists. Thirty-one persons were arrested yesterday during clashes between the Mosleyites and anti-fascists.

Earlier, Mosley was barred from marching through the Jewish-populated East End of London. On his changed route of march, Mosley was provided by a heavy police escort including motorcycle and mounted policemen who kept the anti-fascists, who greatly outnumbered the Mosleyites, from interfering with the march and meeting.

SINGLE, UNITED SLATE TO BE PRESENTED IN BUDAPEST JEWISH COMMUNAL VOTING

BUDAPEST, May 2. (JTA) -- A single united slate representing all parties within the Jewish community will be presented at the forthcoming Jewish communal elections, Majos Stoeckler, president of the Jewish Community of Budapest, declared here today at a joint meeting of the Community and the Zionist Federation.

Representatives of Anti-fascist organizations and veterans of the slave labor camps also participated in the rally. All speakers emphasized that the new community executive must contain representatives of the workers and the "common people."

NUMBER OF DISPLACED PERSONS TO BE ADMITTED TO CANADA IS RAISED FROM 20,000 TO 30,000

MONTREAL, May 2. (JTA) -- The number of DP immigrants who will be admitted to Canada has been raised from 20,000 to 30,000, it was reported here today. Fifteen thousand refugees have already entered the country as DP immigrants. There are no limits on the number of persons who may settle in Canada if they can be vouched for by blood relatives or close friends.

Preference in admission of refugee immigrants is given mining, rail, lumber and garment workers. Two ships, provided by the Dominion, have been assigned to the sole task of transporting immigrants to this country from various European ports, chiefly in Germany. Canada expects to see a total immigration of 100,000 persons in 1948, which would include not only DP's, but British subjects and others as well.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS SPENT \$9,000,000 LAST YEAR, J.W.B. ANNUAL REPORT DISCLOSES

NEW YORK, May 2. (JTA) -- A total of more than \$9,230,000 was spent in 1947 by 314 Jewish community centers affiliated with the Jewish Welfare Board, it was revealed here during the week-end in the annual J.W.B. report. The report will be presented formally to the J.W.B. annual conference scheduled to be held in Chicago from May 8-10.

The J.W.B.'s work, as distinct from that of its member community centers, included aiding hospitalized veterans and service men, distributing to them various religious articles, including 200,000 prayer books. The J.W.B. employed a staff of 17 Army-Navy field workers and 34 full-time and 124 part-time chaplains to carry on its work. Assisting them were 282 volunteer Army-Navy committees. The board's work was carried on in North America, Europe and Asia.

Jewish community centers expanded their cultural activities during the year, the report said. It was noted that 700 organizations took part in the Jewish Music Festival, with 1,756 organizations participating in Jewish Book Month. In addition, the J.W.B.'s Jewish Center Division's lecture bureau arranged 1,613 programs in Jewish centers. The centers affiliated with the J.W.B. had a membership during the year of 454,000.

LESS THAN 100 CANADIAN JEWS MAKE INQUIRIES ON GOING TO PALESTINE TO FIGHT ARABS

OTTAWA, May 2. (JTA) -- Less than 100 Canadian Jews have asked the External Affairs Department for information on the possibility of their going to Palestine to fight there, the department announced over the week-end. The announcement, which was made in denial of a report that many Jews and non-Jews were going to Palestine to take part in the war, also stated that only a half-dozen Canadians had shown an interest in leaving to join the Arabs.

The department reported that it had no indications that arms were leaving this country for Palestine. Shipments of arms require export permits, it was stressed, and none have been issued for European countries or for Palestine.

HABIMAH TRUPE OPENS SIX-WEEK ENGAGEMENT IN NEW YORK; ARRIVES JUST BEFORE OPENING

NEW YORK, May 2. (JTA) -- For the first time in 22 years the Habimah troupe for Palestine appeared in a play in New York with the presentation of "The Dybbuk" last night. An enthusiastic over-capacity audience at the Broadway Theatre witnessed the S. Ansky drama.

The actors arrived from Brussels at LaGuardia Field, at 4 p.m. yesterday, after a ten-and-one-half hours before curtain time, minus their personal baggage. They will appear in four plays during a six-week engagement.

JEWISH AGENCY WILL NOT AGREE TO PALESTINE TRUCE ENDANGERING PARTITION, OFFICIAL SAYS

WASHINGTON, May 2. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency will never agree to a truce in Palestine whose terms would jeopardize establishment of the Jewish state, Eliahu Epstein, director of the Agency's Washington office, declared here on his return from a ten-day visit to Palestine. He also denied at a press conference a report that the Jews were willing to postpone proclamation of the Jewish state beyond May 16.

Pointing out that a de facto Jewish state already exists in Palestine, Epstein insisted that it was impossible for the Jews to return to the situation which existed prior to the U.N. partition decision last November 29. The Jews will not accept trusteeship because they do not desire to "change their British master for any other foreign master," he stressed.

JEWS IN EUROPE, PALESTINE STILL NEED HELP THREE YEARS AFTER V-E DAY, DR. GOLDSTEIN SAYS

NEW YORK, May 2. (JTA) -- Three years after V-E Day, 1,500,000 Jewish survivors in Europe and the Jews of Palestine are facing their most "crucial hour," Dr. Israel Goldstein, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, declared today in a special broadcast over the Mutual Broadcasting System. "Throughout Europe, there are still more than a million men, women and children who are in desperate need of help to rebuild their lives," Dr. Goldstein said.

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP EXCEEDS 220,000, DR. NEUMANN REPORTS

NEW YORK, May 2. (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of America now has more than 220,000 members, it was announced here over the week-end by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the organization. This figure includes 46,000 new recruits during the past seven months since October, 1947. This exceeds the total enrolled for the entire previous twelve month period.

THE CONTENTS OF THIS BULLETIN ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION