

Tuesday, May 4, 1948

# JTA Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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## LAST MINUTE NEWS

### BRITAIN CALLS UPON U.N. TO ESTABLISH TEMPORARY "NEUTRAL" REGIME IN PALESTINE

LAKE SUCCESS, May 3. (JTA) -- Britain today called on the United Nations to stop all talk of trusteeship for Palestine and to create, before May 15, a temporary "neutral" authority under the U.N. that would take over central administrative responsibilities upon the expiration of the Mandate.

Arthur Creech-Jones, British Colonial Secretary, again restated his country's determination to end the Mandate within less than two weeks and warned the General Assembly's Political Committee that it could not hope to find a practical formula for future government in so short a time.

It was clear that by the term "neutral" Britain was trying to rule out such an existing body as the U.N. Palestine Commission, which is committed to carry out the partition plan. Informed sources were inclined to interpret the British maneuver as an attempt to cut the legal ground from under the plan to proclaim a Jewish state on May 16.

"I am not suggesting trusteeship," Creech-Jones said, "because it has found no acceptance and both sides are likely to regard it as the postponement of independence and implying a further period of tutelage." He said the dispatching of British reinforcements to Palestine implied no change in policy nor did it mean an alteration in the British evacuation program. Reinforcements were sent in, he asserted, to secure the British position in Palestine so long as the Mandate lasts and then to protect the evacuation which will be completed by August 1.

The neutral U.N. administration would have the task of taking over assets of the Palestine Government to prevent looting, to further mediation between Arabs and Jews and to act as "a unifying central body." Even under partition, he declared, economic union was considered essential and the U.N. regime would have to handle those economic and administrative problems which apply to the country as a whole, whether or not it is eventually divided into two states.

### Jews and Arabs Agree to Work Out Truce Terms for Old City of Jerusalem

Gen. A.G.L. McLaughlin of Canada promptly supported the British suggestion which was also welcomed by the delegations of Bolivia and Greece. Further discussion was postponed until tomorrow.

The Trusteeship Council has agreed to let the Jews and Arabs work out truce terms for the Old City of Jerusalem directly with British High Commissioner Sir Alan Cunningham. The agreement was reached with the consent of the Jewish and Arab delegates to the Council.

JERUSALEM, May 3. (JTA) -- All convicted prisoners in Palestine, both Jews and Arabs, are now at liberty, the Palestine Government announced late tonight, following the withdrawal of prison guards.

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RED CROSS NEGOTIATING JERUSALEM TRUCE; U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL AWAITS RESULTS

LAKE SUCCESS, May 3. (JTA) -- News that the International Red Cross is trying to negotiate a truce for the whole of Jerusalem overshadowed the political debate at the U.N. today as John Fletcher Cooke of Britain informed the Trusteeship Council that, if the negotiations are successful, details will be broadcast from Jerusalem at midnight, Palestinian time.

The initiative, in this most recent of many attempts to halt the fighting, was taken by Jacques de Reynier, International Red Cross representative in Palestine, Fletcher Cooke announced. He told the Council that he had received only a brief message from Palestine and did not know whether the truce talks were likely to succeed. He denied that the Red Cross had acted at the behest of the British authorities in Jerusalem.

The new move was revealed at a closed session of the Trusteeship Council. Pending the outcome of the talks now in progress, U.S. delegate Benjamin Gerig failed to press for further debate of his temporary trusteeship plan for Jerusalem. Its chances of acceptance are considered remote, in any case, since the Arab Higher Committee has rejected Jerusalem trusteeship as a move to bolster partition.

Alexandre Parodi, president of the Security Council, declared that no Council meeting would be held today to investigate Jewish Agency complaints that Syrian and Lebanese troops had crossed the border into Palestine. It was understood that he is awaiting detailed information from the Consular Truce Commission in Jerusalem.

U.S. Delegate Reports to Council Ben Gurion's "Cease Fire" Order

The Red Cross expose came shortly after the Trusteeship Council president, Francis B. Sayre of the United States, had announced the receipt of a cable signed by David Ben Gurion confirming that a 48-hour cease fire order had been issued in the Old City. Ben Gurion made it plain that one of the terms which must be elaborated is to safeguard the city's food and water supply lines. Unless there was agreement on the detailed truce terms, he said, both parties would be free to resume their activities.

A round of charges and counter-charges followed Fletcher Cooke's reading of a communication from Greek Orthodox and Armenian patriarchs in Jerusalem, requesting that the U.N. act to safeguard the Holy Places. Jamal Hussein made a veiled charge that the Jews were plotting to find a pretext for military occupation of monasteries and other religious buildings. He denied that the Arabs had ever used such buildings as Saint Simeons Monastery for military purposes.

In reply Shertok submitted a five-point intelligence report listing religious sites within the Old City which are being used by the Arabs for manufacture or storing of arms and for billeting soldiers. He took to task the Patriarch of the Katamon Monastery for failing to report that Arab fighters are using his grounds.

Hussein denied these declarations, but he conceded that certain buildings in Jerusalem--including religious establishments--might have been "rented" to the

s. "There may be people with rifles coming in and out, that is true," he said, he denied Shertok's charges that the Old City was in fact a thoroughgoing military establishment.

### Soviet Delegate Calls U.S. Trusteeship Plan "Shameful Document"

The Russian delegation at the Political Committee again condemned the U.S. King paper on trusteeship as "a shameful document" hardly worth detailed attention, said even if it were amended, it would be unacceptable. The Soviet delegate, Yon K. Tsarapkin, charged the Arab states with trying to create the impression that they would accept trusteeship when in fact they were opposed to all the salient points of the plan.

This tactic, he said, is part of the Arab game of ultimately scrapping partition. He warned that trusteeship would aggravate rather than improve the situation and that enforcement might require more troops than the British had employed during their Mandate.

The Soviet delegate joined Joza Vilfan of Yugoslavia in a slashing attack on the virtually-dictatorial powers of the Governor-General. The whole U.S. working paper, Vilfan said, could be summarized in one paragraph: "All powers should be in the hands of a Governor-General who shall be appointed by the well-known majority in the Trusteeship Council."

No real progress was recorded throughout the morning's desultory debate. This was conceded by a tacit confession on the part of Philip C. Jessup of the United States who asked the Committee to seek a "provisional adjustment" rather than a final solution at this time. He suggested that the Committee would profit from "current authentic information" on the latest developments which could be supplied by the Trusteeship Council, the truce commission in Jerusalem, the Palestine Commission, its Secretariat, the Jewish Agency, the Arab Higher Committee and the Mandatory Power.

Sir Zafrullah Khan of Pakistan reiterated his objection to granting the Jews sovereignty over districts in which the Arabs have a majority. He might reconsider his opposition to partition, the Pakistan Foreign Minister said, if the Jews would content themselves with proclaiming a state in those areas where they have a majority. This was the case, he said, only in the Jaffa sub-district embracing Tel Aviv.

Jorge Garcia Granados of Guatemala opposed the enforcement protocol which, according to the U.S. plan, would be appended to the trusteeship agreement, designating certain powers as ready to send in armed forces at the request of the Governor-General. As Tsarapkin had pointed out earlier, Granados declared, the Charter submitted only the Security Council to handle such a request. Furthermore, Granados said, it would not be effective unless the powers concerned had made a prior agreement to provide enforcement troops.

### HILDRING'S APPOINTMENT DOES NOT MEAN CHANGE OF U.S. PALESTINE POLICY, STATE DEPT. SAYS

WASHINGTON, May 3. (JTA) -- The State Department denied today that the U.S. Government has a new policy on Palestine. The denial was made by Lincoln White, Department press officer, who emphasized that "our policy on Palestine is precisely that outlined by Secretary Marshall and U.N. delegate Senator Warren R. Austin."

Declining to be more specific, White said, however, "There has been a lot of speculation to the effect that the appointment of General John H. Hildring to be Special Assistant to the Secretary of State on Palestine affairs forecasts a change in U.S. policy on the Palestine issue. The answer, as I am able to get it, is 'no.'"

NEW BRITISH TROOPS LAND IN HAIFA; HAGANAH RUSHES REINFORCEMENTS TO SYRIAN FRONTIER

JERUSALEM, May 3. (JTA) -- While peace reigned in the Old City of Jerusalem today for the first time in months--under the terms of the 48-hour cease fire agreement--the first 1,000 British soldiers sent to Palestine from Cyprus landed at Haifa. They will be followed by additional troops from Malta.

Meanwhile, Haganah reinforcements were being rushed into position on Palestine's northeastern frontier, facing Syria, to head off a threatened new invasion and attack on Jewish settlements in Upper Galilee. Jewish intelligence has reported that new Syrian units are pouring into the Batiha area, just across the Jordan River in Syria, and that more troops have been observed on the main road from Damascus moving toward Batiha, which is a terminus of the road. For the time being, however, all is quiet on this front.

Although Jerusalem was peaceful today--except for sporadic shooting on a minor scale--the Arabs violated the cease fire agreement last night several hours after it went into effect. Arab mortars began shelling the Jewish part of the Old City. Two children were killed and several persons injured before British artillery silenced the Arabs. Large numbers of Arabs are continuing to evacuate the city.

Reports from southern Palestine stated that the Jews yesterday blew up several bridges leading into the Arab city of Beersheba in an attempt to isolate the Arab guerrillas based in the town. All roads in the vicinity are now considered impassable. In north central Palestine the Haganah has occupied two Arab villages near Safad from which guerrilla reinforcements have been infiltrating Safad and sniping at the Jews.

The Palestine Government today denied reports that the Arab Legion had disobeyed orders from High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham to cease fire against the Jewish settlement of Geshar on the northeastern frontier. The government statement accused the Jews of opening fire on the Legionnaires.

The extent of the disruption of the Arab political leadership was revealed today when it was learned that the tentative Arab government which will be responsible for law and order after the end of the Mandate, 12 days hence, does not include a single member of the Hussein-controlled Higher Committee. The Arab Provisional Government is reportedly being organized in one of the neighboring countries.

The casualty toll in the Palestine fighting today surpassed the 10,000 figure. More than 5,000 persons--including 3,569 Arabs and 1,256 Jews--have been killed since the United Nations partition decision was announced, while more than 5,600 persons have been wounded, including 2,100 Jews and 3,160 Arabs.

BEVIN MAY EXPLAIN TO PARLIAMENT TODAY REASON FOR SENDING NEW BRITISH TROOPS TO PALESTINE

LONDON, May 3: (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin is expected to make a statement explaining the reason for dispatching British troops from Cyprus and Malta to Palestine when he opens a two-day Parliamentary debate on foreign policy tomorrow. Meanwhile, speculation is increasing concerning the possibilities that the move foreshadows a change in British plans to surrender the Palestine Mandate May 15.

Reports in the local press explain the unexpected move as the result of a plea by Palestine High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham to the Cabinet to prevent evacuation plans from being jeopardized by the Arab-Jewish conflict. It is believed that the request was discussed by the Cabinet committee on defense and Chief of the Imperial Staff Viscount Montgomery.

The Admiralty today announced that the cruiser Newcastle has arrived off the coast of Jaffa, where an uneasy truce exists between the Jews and British and Arab forces in the all-Arab city. The announcement adds that the ship is merely "demonstrating"

U.S. SUPREME COURT RULES RESTRICTIVE REAL ESTATE COVENANTS MAY NOT BE ENFORCED BY COURTS

WASHINGTON, May 3. (JTA) -- The Supreme Court, in a six to zero decision, today ruled that neither Federal nor State courts can enforce restrictive covenants aimed against the use or occupancy of real property on the grounds of race or color. The court did not rule that the covenants in themselves are unconstitutional, only that enforcement by the courts of privately agreed-upon covenants violates the constitutional guarantee of equal protection of the laws contained in the Fourteenth Amendment.

Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson wrote the two opinions, covering four restrictive covenant cases, that were handed down today. The four cases covered included two in the District of Columbia, and one each in St. Louis and Detroit. All four cases covered property covenanted against use or occupancy by Negroes. Justice Vinson was joined by Justices Hugo L. Black, Felix Frankfurter, William O. Douglas, Frank Murphy and Harold H. Burton.

On the question of whether the covenants themselves can be ruled unconstitutional, the Court's opinion pointed out that the Fourteenth Amendment applies only to such action as may be taken by the states. The Fourteenth Amendment "erects no shield against merely private conduct, however discriminatory or wrongful." It added: "We conclude, therefore, that the restrictive agreements standing alone cannot be regarded as a violation of any rights guaranteed to petitioners by the Fourteenth Amendment. So long as the purposes of those agreements are effectuated by voluntary adherence to their terms, it would appear clear that there has been no action by the state and the provisions of the Amendment have not been violated."

A number of prominent Jewish organizations were among the 30-odd groups that filed amicus curiae briefs with the Court in the covenant cases. These included the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, the Jewish War Veterans, and the Jewish Labor Committee. The U.S. Government also filed a brief calling the covenants "against the law, against the Constitution, and against the public policy of the United States."

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, declared: "The decision of the Supreme Court knocks out the most important prop of the ghetto system which has increasingly disgraced and disfigured most of our American communities and which un-American forces in our midst are seeking to maintain. It clearly establishes that our courts will not let themselves be used to perpetuate racial barriers which divide Americans and which help to breed prejudice."

15 JEWS AMONG 31 ARRESTED DURING LONDON CLASHES BETWEEN MOSLEYITES AND ANTI-FASCISTS

LONDON, May 3. (JTA) -- Fifteen of 31 persons arrested yesterday during clashes between Mosleyites and anti-fascists are Jews, it was revealed here today by the North London Police Court. One fascist demonstrator was fined \$8.00 while the other 30 persons arrested--all of whom were released on bail--will be tried next week.

The whereabouts of Capt. Roy Alexander Farran, acquitted of killing Alexander Rubowitz, 18, in Palestine last year, were being kept strictly secret today following the accidental killing of his brother, Rex, in Wolverhampton. The death occurred when Farran's brother opened a package of books addressed to the former British Army officer causing a bomb concealed in one of the volumes to explode.

LIBEL SUIT AGAINST NON-SECTARIAN ANTI-NAZI LEAGUE OPENS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- A preliminary hearing in a libel suit brought against the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League by attorney Hallam M. Richardson opened here today in Mid-Manhattan Court. The suit grew out of a League pamphlet on pro-Arab activities in the U.S., in which Richardson's name was mentioned.

ARGENTINIAN JEWS DECIDE TO LAUNCH \$12,500,000 CAMPAIGN FOR PALESTINE NEEDS ON MAY 16

BUENOS AIRES, May 3. (JTA) -- A decision to launch a joint campaign for 50,000,000 pesos (\$12,500,000) for Palestine security needs, the Jewish National Fund and the Palestine Foundation Fund was reached here today by Argentinian Zionist leaders. Zionist leader Josef Lutzky has been named to head the provisional committee to prepare the campaign which will be opened May 16, simultaneously with the proclamation of the Provisional Jewish Government in Palestine.

MEXICAN JEWS TO REMIT 1,000,000 PESOS FOR PALESTINE SECURITY ON MAY 15

MEXICO CITY, May 3. (JTA) -- Mexican Jewry expects to remit 1,000,000 pesos (\$200,000) to Haganah on May 15, the date of the termination of Britain's Mandate, it was announced here today.

Leaders of the United Jewish Campaign, which supports Jewish institutions in this country and also provides funds for Palestine, predicted that the current drive for 4,000,000 pesos will be reached. Tuviah Reznikoff, president of the Campaign, returned here this week from Tel Aviv where he attended the sessions of the Zionist Actions Committee.

REVISIONISTS WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN NEW JEWISH GOVERNMENT UNLESS GIVEN CABINET POSTS

PARIS, May 3. (JTA) -- A resolution calling on Revisionists to refuse to participate in the new Jewish Government if members of the party are not given posts in the Cabinet was adopted at the session of the World Revisionist Party Council which closed recently, it was disclosed here today. The resolution is subject to confirmation at a second parley.

JEWS AIDING DRIVE FOR \$100,000 FOR HISTORIC CHURCH IN NEW YORK TO HALT FORECLOSURE

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- Jews are aiding the 192-year-old Second Presbyterian Church here to raise \$100,000 by next week to forestall a mortgage foreclosure on the church's property, it was reported here today. Led by Rabbi Gabriel Schulman, spiritual leader of Brith Sholom Congregation, which has been using the church's facilities since 1938, an intense drive has been launched to raise the necessary sum by May 11.

Rev. L. Humphrey Walz, minister of the church, declared today that Rabbi Schulman and members of his congregation "have contributed both moral and financial support with heart-warming results." Rabbi Schulman pointed out that Jews were among the first to contribute funds to the reconstruction of the church when it was severely damaged by Hessian soldiers during the Revolutionary War.

FIRST POSTWAR YIDDISH MOVIE PRODUCED IN POLAND; DEPICTS LIFE IN GHETTO UNDER NAZIS

WARSAW, May 3. (JTA) -- The first Yiddish movie produced in Poland since the end of the war was premiered here tonight. Entitled, "We Remained Alive," the movie depicts the life of Poland's Jews during the war in the Warsaw Ghetto, in the Maidanek death camp and in other places.

ATTEMPTS BY ANTI-SEMITES TO HALT SHOWING OF "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" IN SWEDEN FAIL

STOCKHOLM, May 3. (JTA) -- Attempts by Swedish anti-Semites to prevent the distribution and showing of the American film on social anti-Semitism, "Gentleman's Agreement," have proven unsuccessful and the movie, with Swedish titles, is attracting large audiences.

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