

Thursday, May 13, 1948

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

J. PLAN FOR INTERIM REGIME IN PALESTINE DIES AFTER REJECTION BY JEWS AND ARABS

LAKE SUCCESS, May 12. (JTA) -- The plan for establishing a U.N. Central Commission for Palestine as a temporary interim regime, after the termination of the British Mandate Friday night, died today after both the Jewish Agency and the Arab Higher Committee rejected it.

Faced with a deadline of only 48 hours, the U.N. Political Committee will resume its meeting tomorrow morning to seek last-minute agreement on a successor regime to the British administration. It is expected that the United States may submit a new plan either late this evening or tomorrow morning to the political sub-committee.

Major Aubrey Eban of the Jewish Agency told the sub-committee that the Jews would accept a U.N. commission provided its functions are confined to mediation and liaison only. In rejecting a wider scope of functions for the projected U.N. body, Major Eban urged the United Nations to face up to the fact that the Jewish state is in existence and is gathering strength. The Jews, he said, could not accept even a temporary infringement of their national sovereignty, nor any deviation from the U. N. partition decision.

Jamal el Hussaini rejected the plan on the basis that it was still another back door attempt to impose partition. Sir Alexander Cadogan, British delegate, suggested that the U.N. should take "a charitable view" of the word "regime" and that the commission should not attempt to handle affairs which would arouse the antagonism of either the Arabs or the Jews.

The Jewish Agency today gave its qualified support to a joint French-American plan for a U.N. regime in Jerusalem, backed by a strong police force. Dr. Mordecai Khish told the Assembly's Jerusalem sub-committee that the Agency regards this draft as "the most fitting of any solution thus far presented." He objected, however, to buttressing the improvised U.N. arrangement with references to the trusteeship provisions of the Charter.

LAST BRITISH TROOPS EVACUATE JERUSALEM ON FRIDAY; HIGH COMMISSIONER LEAVES COUNTRY

JERUSALEM, May 12. (JTA) -- An official communique disclosed today that the last British troops in Jerusalem will leave the city on Friday. Earlier, a government announcement disclosed that the Mandate will terminate on Saturday at 12:01 A.M.

High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham will sail from Haifa aboard the cruise ship *Albatross* Saturday. A single British piper will "play out" the Mandate from the High Commissioner's house here on Friday. The Mandatory Power's flag will be lowered from the building's flagpole after Cunningham's departure. A ceremony marking Britain's rule in Palestine will take place in Haifa, where Cunningham's ship will probably stay in Palestine's territorial waters after Saturday morning.

It was reported late tonight that the Arab town of Beisan surrendered to Jewish forces after a brief attack. The village is situated in the Valley of Esdraelon.

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PALESTINE JEWS WARNED OF DANGER OF ARAB INVASION; JEWISH CABINET DISCUSSES U.S. STAND

TEL AVIV, May 12. (JTA) -- The Jewish population of Palestine was warned today by the Provisional Jewish Government of the danger of an Arab invasion immediately after the termination of the Mandate Friday at midnight. All able-bodied Jews were called upon to be prepared to repulse the invaders.

The 13-member provisional Jewish cabinet was in session throughout the day considering a report by Moshe Shertok on the latest political developments at the United Nations and on the attitude of the U.S. Government towards the proclamation of a Jewish state this week-end. Shertok reported at great length on a talk he had with U.S. Secretary of State Marshall just before he left for Palestine several days ago.

The cabinet also discussed the question of whether to formally proclaim the Jewish state following the expiration of the Mandate on Saturday at 12:01 A.M. According to reliable sources, Jewish leaders have already decided among themselves to go ahead with the proclamation.

British Troops Leaving Jaffa; City Placed Under Control of Tel Aviv

Mayor Israel Rokach of Tel Aviv told a press conference today that the city of Jaffa will be placed, possibly today, under the authority of the Tel Aviv municipality following a plea by the Arab Emergency Committee in the Arab seaport city addressed to Jewish authorities in Tel Aviv. The mayor added that workers will be sent to Jaffa to restore the city's disrupted services.

The last of Britain's troops are scheduled to leave Jaffa tonight, while Haganah forces will enter the city even before the final British withdrawal. A Haganah commander will be appointed to maintain order in the city and will be responsible for the life and property of the Arabs there.

The official surrender of Jaffa took place today after a three-hour talk between representatives of the Arab Emergency Committee and high Haganah officers. The Jews refused to accept British mediation in these negotiations.

SECRETARY MARSHALL IS NON-COMMITTAL ON U.S. RECOGNITION OF JEWISH STATE IN PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, May 12. (JTA) -- Secretary of State Marshall told his press conference today that he could not comment at this time on whether the United States will recognize the Jewish state in Palestine in the event that the U.N. fails to approve a provisional regime for the country between now and Friday at midnight when the Mandate expires. He said it was still too early to make any comment on the situation. We have to wait, he asserted, to see who does what when the Mandate ends.

The U.S. was urged to recognize the Jewish state and lift the Palestine arms embargo in a letter to Marshall from Senator James E. Murray and Rep. Emanuel Celler, made public here today. "Partition of Palestine is a fait accompli," the letter stated, "and it is our considered judgment that failure on our part to recognize that fact would be a blunder of the highest magnitude." The letter also urged the U.S. to extend a \$100,000,000 loan to the Jewish state.

Approximately 200 members of the George Washington Legion called at the White House today to ask that they be granted permission to go to Palestine to aid the Jews in defending the country against possible Arab attack. The delegation, made up of World War II veterans who registered with the American League for a Free Palestine, also asked a group of Congressmen to press for legislation to protect their American citizenship if they become members of a Jewish fighting force in Palestine.

LARGE ARAB FORCES ATTACK TWO COLONIES AS MANDATE'S END NEARS; HIGHWAY BATTLE IMMINENT

JERUSALEM, May 12. (JTA) -- Two major battles involving huge Arab concentrations were continuing today in Palestine, while a third appeared imminent, as the official expiration of the Mandate loomed less than 72 hours away.

King Abdullah's Arab Legion, numbering more than 2,000 strong and aided by 3,000 local Arab villagers, opened one of the heaviest battles in the Palestine fighting this morning when it launched a fierce attack on Kfar Etzion, five miles south of Jerusalem.

The Legionnaires were reported to be using tanks, armored cars and Bren gun carriers. Simultaneously, a large Arab force raided the isolated Negev settlement, Kfar Darom, near the Egyptian frontier. Disrupted communication facilities prevented correspondents here from learning immediately the results of these two attacks.

The Kfar Darom battle has been continuing for the past 24 hours, with Jewish units alternating between defensive and counter-offensive strategy. One unconfirmed report from Jewish sources said 60 Arabs and five Jews had been killed in the Kfar Darom engagement.

At the same time, the strategic battle for Bab el Wad, Arab village controlling the vital Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway, appeared ready to flare up again today when reinforcements from Ramallah, made up chiefly of Kawakji's broken "Arab Liberation Army," approached the battle area. Earlier, Jerusalem's residents were awakened at dawn by heavy rifle and mortar fire in the Me'or Haim section of the city. The Jews claimed that Arab units had launched an attack on the Jewish sector, but there was no clarification.

Haganah Reports Fighting in Kfar Etzion Area Is "Heavy"

Terse dispatches from Haganah headquarters in Kfar Etzion said the fighting there was "heavy." One Haganah communique released here said merely: "Hard fighting continues Etzion area." The settlement is situated on the Bethlehem-Hebron road.

Meanwhile, Haganah reported that it had captured Palestine's largest police station, atop Mt. Canaan, overlooking Safad. The Jews said that they seized large quantities of arms. Wounded and captured Arabs, Haganah said, will be handed over to the International Red Cross.

A Haganah communique said today that large-scale operations designed to clean out Arab bands in southern Palestine were progressing satisfactorily. The Arab village of Kfar Basit, the announcement said, was overrun after offering heavy resistance, with 10 Arabs and two Jews killed. In another engagement in the operation, Haganah said, 50 Arabs were killed in the Bet Daras area, while many houses were blown up. The village of Saufir-Ilisimailia was seized without any Jewish losses, the communique said.

Pablo Azcarate, head of the U.N. Palestine Commission's advance party here, told a press conference today that he had returned to Palestine on behalf of the U.N. Security Council's truce commission. He said he does not at present have any instructions to take over the Palestine Government's assets or to continue the public services, but said that his staff is "standing by" awaiting word from Lake Success. He expressed confidence that a country-wide truce would be achieved.

It was reported here today from Cyprus that the two Jewish vessels, Pan York and Pan Crescent, apprehended last year by the British with more than 10,000 visaless immigrants aboard, and now held at Cyprus, will be released shortly. British authorities on the island confirmed London reports that the 25,000 Jews detained there will be freed after the termination of the Palestine Mandate on Friday midnight.

ALL JEWS ON CYPRUS MUST BE REMOVED BY AUG. 1, REES-WILLIAMS DECLARES IN PARLIAMENT

LONDON, May 12. (JTA) -- All Jewish detainees in Cyprus must be removed from the island by Aug. 1, Under-Secretary for Colonial Affairs David Rees-Williams declared today in Parliament. He said that detailed plans for the visaless immigrants' removal, which will begin after the expiration of the Mandate, are now under discussion.

Rees-Williams asserted that although he did not believe the removal operation would involve any cost to British taxpayers, he said he could not give any assurance that British vessels would not be used for the task. Replying to questions, he stated he was not aware of any Jews on the island who did not wish to leave.

The Under-Secretary announced that the British Government will not pay any compensation to British subjects for losses sustained in destroyed or lost property resulting from the present violence in Palestine. The government will attempt, however, he said, to have the successor government in Palestine make good all such damage claims presented by Britons.

KENYA INTERNMENT CAMP TO BE LIQUIDATED BY END OF MONTH; DETAINEES ASK RED CROSS FOR AID

LONDON, May 12. (JTA) -- The Gilgil internment camp in Kenya, where 254 Jews from Palestine have been detained for several years for alleged acts of terrorism against the British, will be liquidated by the end of this month, it was disclosed here today in a message received from the camp's inmates by the Assirei Zion committee.

The message said that the detainees expect to reach Palestine by June 15. The inmates have requested the International Red Cross to furnish them with an escort on their trip across Arab countries to Palestine.

(Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech-Jones was asked today by the American section of the Jewish Agency to "expedite the speedy release of all Palestine detainees in Kenya and their return to Palestine." In a cable to London, the Agency declared: "Justice is overdue for the men deported from their homeland and kept for years separated from their families, bringing terrible emotional strain and deep economic distress. We are convinced immediate action on the part of His Majesty's Government will contribute greatly to the improvement of Anglo-Jewish relations.")

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT DECLARES "STATE OF SIEGE" FOR ENTIRE COUNTRY EFFECTIVE MAY 15

CAIRO, May 12. (JTA) -- With only three days to go before Britain relinquishes the Palestine Mandate, the Egyptian Government today announced a "state of siege" throughout Egyptian territory as of May 15. The decision was taken for "the security of military forces, the maintenance of their lines of communication and their supplies and the publication of military news in the press so as to be able to undertake military action to repulse Zionist attacks on Arab Palestine."

REVISIONISTS URGE BEN CURION TO PROCLAIM JEWISH STATE DESPITE AMERICAN PRESSURE

PARIS, May 12. (JTA) -- Revisionist World Headquarters here today cabled David Ben Gurion, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, urging the proclamation of a Jewish state despite American pressure on the Agency not to do so. Failure to proclaim the Jewish state, the message said, "would be a rebellion against the people's will and the unanimous decision of the Zionist Action Committee."

GOODS STOLEN FROM JEWS DURING ANTONESCU REGIME TO BE GIVEN TO RUMANIAN JEWISH GROUP

BUCHAREST, May 12. (JTA) -- The Rumanian Cabinet announced today that it is handing over to the Federation of Jewish Communities a large quantity of valuables, furs and clothing which was taken from Jews fleeing Rumania during the pro-Nazi Antonescu regime. The goods will be used by the Federation to aid needy Jews.

The Cabinet announcement says that the goods will be transferred to the Federation unless they are claimed by their legal owners, or the owners' heirs, within six months. Jewish circles welcomed the decision and voiced the belief that the same principle will be applied to all heirless Jewish property still held by the government.

Meanwhile, a group of 36 certificate-bearing Jewish emigrants sailed from Constanza for Palestine today aboard the S.S. Transylvania.

SLOVAK COURT TRIES FORMER MEMBERS OF PRO-NAZI PARLIAMENT FOR ANTI-JEWISH ACTS

BRATISLAVA, May 12. (JTA) -- The Peoples Court of Bratislava has begun trying eight former members of the wartime Slovak Parliament for collaboration with the Nazis and promoting anti-Jewish legislation.

One of the eight, Eugen Gusukiewicz, publicly joined the fascist Hlinka Guard and was responsible for the persecution and arrest of many Jews. The crimes of a second defendant, Pavel Cernogorsky, are so numerous that on some counts he will be tried by a second court, after the present trial is completed.

BULGARIAN JEWS ELECT NEW CONSISTORY EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN COMMUNISTS AND ZIONISTS

SOFIA, May 12. (JTA) -- A new 26-member consistory, made up of 13 Communists and 13 Zionists, was elected here today at the close of a two-day conference of the Bulgarian Jewish Communities. Previously, the consistory was dominated by Communist members and only a few Zionists were affiliated with it.

Resolutions expressing the determination of Bulgarian Jewry to fight for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine and strive to unite all elements within the community were adopted at the parley. The meeting also decided to publish only one Jewish newspaper in the future, agreeing to cease publication of several Zionist papers.

The conference decided to withdraw all financial support in the future from Bulgarian synagogues, leaving religious Jews in the community solely responsible for their maintenance.

BUDAPEST JEWS HAIL UNITY OF MAJOR PARTIES IN COMMUNITY; ELECTIONS TO BE HELD THIS MONTH

BUDAPEST, May 12. (JTA) -- A single, united pre-election rally was held here last night to hear Dr. Lajos Stokler, president of the Central Board of Hungarian Jews, and other prominent persons in the community, including Zionist leaders, explain why both major parties have agreed to unite on a single slate and a single program. The Jewish community elections are scheduled for May 23 when some 75,000 Jews are expected to go to the polls in this city to cast their ballot for the Unity Party.

Stokler expressed gratification that it was possible to unite the major factions in the community on a program which would be of greatest benefit to the entire community. He reviewed the accomplishments of the Jews in the last three years since the liberation and presented a number of goals in the social and economic fields toward which the community will press during the coming year. He also called for the establishment of closer relations between the Jews of Hungary and of the neighboring countries, and between the communities of eastern and western Europe and America.

LIBERATED JEWS DENY THAT 80 PERCENT OF THEM PREFER TO GO TO UNITED STATES

MUNICH, May 12 (JTA) -- American press reports that 80 percent of Europe's displaced Jews have lost interest in Palestine and now wish to emigrate to the United States were branded completely untrue today by the Central Committee of Liberated Jews here.

In a message to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the Committee said: "The overwhelming majority of the Jewish DP's wish to emigrate only to Palestine. This is indicated by the fact that more than 70 percent of the displaced Jews have already registered for immediate emigration to Palestine. Furthermore, at the recent congress of Jewish DP's all delegates supported the Zionist program."

A 32-member "DP Symphony Orchestra" presented a medley of American compositions here last night under the sponsorship of the Joint Distribution Committee. Leonard Bernstein, American Jewish conductor, led the orchestra, most of whose members are former concentration camp inmates.

NEED FOR EXPANDING ALLIANCE SCHOOLS IN NORTH AFRICA STRESSED BY FRENCH JEWISH LEADERS

PARIS, May 12. (JTA) -- The need for expanding the network of schools maintained by the Alliance Israelite Universelle in North Africa was stressed today by Judge Leon Meiss, president of the Central Jewish Consistory, who has just returned here from Morocco where he participated in the dedication ceremonies of a new Alliance-UMC vocational school.

Thousands of Jewish children in North Africa, he declared, are unable to attend classes in the Alliance schools owing to the overcrowded conditions. He asserted that these youngsters are living in "appalling misery."

PLANS TO SET UP CREDIT COOPERATIVES FOR HUNGARIAN JEWS ANNOUNCED IN BUDAPEST

BUDAPEST, May 12. (JTA) -- Plans to establish six credit cooperatives in rural Jewish communities to aid hundreds of Jewish workers during the next few months were announced here today at a Joint Distribution Committee conference attended by Jewish leaders from provincial areas in all parts of Hungary.

The J.D.C. also made known that the recently-established "reconstruction cooperative" in Budapest has already extended more than 4,000 loans while five producers cooperatives have recently been set up in this city, the Committee revealed.

THIRTEEN-VOLUME BIBLE COMMENTARY BY DR. SOLOMON GOLDMAN PUBLISHED TODAY

NEW YORK, May 12. (JTA) -- Declaring that Bible commentaries "aid in the promotion of good will between all peoples of the world because they enrich religious understanding among the people of various faiths and give added dignity to religion," Dr. Francis Stifler, president of the American Bible Society, paid tribute to Dr. Solomon Goldman of Chicago on the occasion of the publication of The Book of Books, first volume of a new 13-volume commentary on the Bible published today by Harper.

Dr. Stifler spoke at a luncheon at the Waldorf Astoria given in honor of Dr. Goldman. "There never was a time when the promotion of interest in interpretation of the Bible was more significant than now," Dr. Stifler said. "Dr. Goldman's new Bible commentary will be a stimulus to the furtherance of knowledge about the Bible throughout the world."

"I have long been convinced," continued Dr. Stifler, "that the non-Jewish interpreter of the Bible, both the Old Testament or the New, could never do his best work until he had been helped by Jewish scholars. In my opinion, therefore, we are, all of us, no matter what the basis of our faith, bound to be debtors to Dr. Goldman for the monumental work he is putting into our hands."