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# JTA

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THE UNION EXTENDS OFFICIAL RECOGNITION TO ISRAEL; REQUESTED BY SHERTOK

LONDON, May 17. (JTA) -- The Soviet Union has officially recognized the new Jewish state of Israel, Moscow Radio, heard here, declared today. A request for recognition had been received by the Soviet Government from Moshe Shertok, Israel's Foreign Minister, the broadcast said.

(The Polish Minister in Cairo today lodged an official protest with the Egyptian Foreign Minister against the bombing of a Polish ship at Tel Aviv by Egyptian planes and demanded indemnity. This is the first "international incident" reported in three-day-old hostilities since the Jewish state was proclaimed.)

U.S. ASKS U.N. FOR CEASE-FIRE ORDER; CALLS ARAB INVASION OF ISRAEL "THREAT TO PEACE"

LAKE SUCCESS, May 17. (JTA) -- A strongly-worded resolution calling on the United Nations Security Council to declare that "the situation in Palestine constitutes a threat to the peace and a breach of the peace" within the meaning of the U.N. Charter was introduced in the Council this afternoon by United States delegate Warren Austin.

The resolution calls on the U.N. to: 1. Order all governments and authorities to cease and desist from any hostile military action and to that end issue a cease-fire and stand-fast order to their military and para-military forces to become effective within 36 hours after the adoption of this resolution; 2. Direct the Truce Commission established by the Council April 23 to report to the Council on the compliance with these orders.

The Soviet Union immediately endorsed the American resolution. British delegate John Fletcher-Cooke, on the other hand, questioned the Council's right to declare the Arab invasion a threat to the peace because, he said, Palestine was now a no-man's land.

Austin suggested that the Council submit a list of questions to the parties concerned in order to clarify the Palestine situation. The Arab League states would be asked to declare whether their armed forces "or irregular forces under your control" are operating in Palestine; where they are located and what their objectives are; and on what legal basis these forces are intervening in Palestine. The Higher Committee is required to answer whether it is exercising political authority in Palestine and whether it requested assistance from Arab governments outside of Palestine.

The questions to be asked of the Israel Government are: 1. Over which areas of Palestine do you actually exercise control at the present time? 2. Do you have armed forces operating outside areas claimed by your Jewish state? 3. If so, on what basis do you attempt to justify such operations? 4. Are you negotiating with Arab authorities regarding either a truce or a political settlement in Palestine? 5. Have you named representatives to deal with the Security Council Truce Commission for the purpose of effecting the truce called by the Security Council? 6. Will you agree to an immediate and unconditional truce for the city of Jerusalem and the Holy Places?

ISRAELI CONTROL CENTER OF JERUSALEM; TEL AVIV-HOSPITAL BOMBED; CASUALTIES HEAVY

TEL AVIV, May 17. (JTA) -- Jewish forces are now in full control of the center of Jerusalem after several days of street fighting, it was reported here tonight. However, Arab mortar shells are still falling in the business and governmental heart of the former capital of Palestine.

A Haganah commando unit last night carried out a successful raid eight miles into Lebanese territory, it was revealed here this morning. The Jewish troops blew up an important bridge over the Litani River and forced a large Lebanese force which was heading for the bridge to withdraw. One Jew was wounded and all returned to base.

Meanwhile, the Haganah has occupied new positions in the Malakia area where yesterday 200 Lebanese soldiers were killed by the Jews who halted their advance into Israel. The Jews also captured the Nebi Yousha police station, which dominates the Jezreel Valley on the road junction between Eastern and Western Galilee.

Egyptian planes raided Tel Aviv five times today. Casualties were heavy when Haganah David hospital was hit and machine gunned. The first raid, carried out by two planes, was a complete failure because the half-dozen bombs dropped fell wide of their mark in the port area. The "Voice of Israel" radio, in an Arabic program, warned the Arab states that their cities will be bombed from the air if the war continues.

In the Jordan Valley several settlements were attacked by Iraqi and Trans-Jordan troops and one, Geshur, was reported to have repulsed enemy infantry after rejecting a demand from the Iraqi to surrender. Arab units also failed to carry Jewish positions at Samakh, in the same area. However, they did succeed in damaging the Be'er Sheva power station, at the confluence of the Yarmuk and Jordan Rivers. The Arabs lost a number of armored vehicles in these actions. The Iraqi assert that their planes raided several settlements in eastern Palestine.

In the south, where the Egyptians have spread out over most of the area assigned to Arab Palestine, a two-day battle at the Nirim settlement was ended when the Jews counterattacked and drove the Egyptian regulars back to their base. The Arabs left 31 dead behind. The Haganah also captured a number of Bren guns and other artillery weapons.

Sternists Join Haganah; Epstein Named Envoy to Washington

In the Tel Aviv area units of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, which Saturday was incorporated in the Haganah, are attacking Ramleh, an Arab town of some 9,000. They are reported to have penetrated part way into the town. The Stern Group has also joined the Haganah and its troops are already in action. The Sternist commander was given the rank of major.

The announcement of the naming of the first diplomatic representatives of Israel was made here today by by Moshe Shertok, Foreign Minister. Eliahu Epstein, formerly in charge of the Washington office of the Jewish Agency, was named first representative to the United States. Maurice Fisher will represent Israel in Paris, while the former members of the Jewish Agency in London will represent the new state there.

The government is considering the filing of formal charges of war crimes against Brigadier John B. Glubb, British commander-in-chief of the Transjordan Arab Legion, it was learned tonight. A Haganah communique stated that all the inhabitants of Kar Etzion, men, women and children, were killed after the Legion occupied the settlement after a three-day battle. Occupation took place the last day of the British mandate over Palestine.

WEIZMANN, FIRST PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL, SENDS ACCEPTANCE MESSAGE TO GOVERNMENT

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, who last night was elected President of the Council of Government of Israel at a special session in Tel Aviv, dispatched the following message to the Provisional Jewish Government accepting first Presidency of Israel:

"I am proud of the great honor bestowed upon me by the Provisional Council of Government of the state of Israel in electing me as its first President. It is in a noble spirit that I accept this election and I am deeply grateful to the Council for confidence which it has reposed in me.

"I dedicate myself to the service of the land and people in whose cause I have been privileged to labor these many years. I send to the Provisional Government of Israel this expression of my deepest and most heartfelt affection including the blessing of God upon them. I pray that the struggle forced upon us will speedily end and will be succeeded by an era of peace, development, and prosperity for the people of Israel and those who are waiting to join us in the construction and advancement of the new state.

"I regret that at this moment I am not with our people but my thoughts and prayers are especially with those who are bearing the brunt and sacrifice of Israel's defense. The future of Israel will not be unworthy of those who have fallen. Zion will be redeemed in justice."

(A J.T.A. cable from Tel Aviv said today that Dr. Weizmann was elected President of the Provisional Government of Israel after he was nominated by Minister of Justice Felix Rosenbluth and seconded by Premier David Ben Gurion. The Revisionist delegates voted against while the United Workers Party and Communist delegates abstained in the balloting.)

WHITE HOUSE DEFERS DECISION ON ARMS EMBARGO TO ISRAEL; STATE DEPT. KNOWS OF NO CHANGE

WASHINGTON, May 17. (JTA) -- Presidential press secretary Charles G. Ross said today it was unlikely that any announcement on the Palestine arms embargo or diplomatic representation to Israel would be made today. At the same time, Michael MacDermott, State Department press officer, said he had no information on any possible change in the arms embargo policy, adding that any such change would probably be announced by the White House.

Ross asserted that the question of the arms embargo has been under consideration for some time and that the United States' recognition of the new state of Israel has heightened interest in the matter. Letters and wires "to an overwhelming extent," he said, are still pouring in, expressing approval of the President's swift recognition of Israel. He said many of the messages also urged the U.S. to lift the arms embargo.

Kliahu Epstein, Israel's representative in Washington, speaking on a local radio station last night, said the Jews of Israel have "no designs" on any part of Palestine other than the U.N. partition-allotted territory. He also declared that the new state offers "great opportunities for private investment." Although charging that the Arabs' invasion of Palestine is "a serious breach of international security," Epstein extended the "hand of peace" to the Arabs.

"Not only are we interested in an arrangement or agreement with the future Arab state," he stated, "but more than that, we look for closer cooperation with the other Arab states as well." The Arabs must, however, he added, treat Israel as an equal and independent nation. Meanwhile, the local branch of the Jewish Agency announced today that effective immediately, it is closing indefinitely.

## RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL PRATISED ON SENATE FLOOR; LIFTING OF ARMS EMBARGO URGED

WASHINGTON, May 17. (JTA) -- Bailing the establishment and U.S. recognition of the new Jewish state of Israel, several Senators today told the Senate that the logical step for the United States to take is to lift the arms embargo so that Israel can defend itself.

Senator Alben W. Barkley, Senate minority leader, called the creation of the state "a vindication of the United Nations." U.S. recognition of the state "is likewise a vindication of the decision of the U.N. in the partitioning of Palestine between the Jews and the Arabs," he said. Referring to the U.N. partition decision of last November, Barkley pointed out that, while the Jews had accepted partition, the Arab groups had not greeted the decision "with that degree of cooperation and tolerance which we had a right to expect."

"It seems rather difficult to understand why the Arabs oppose the creation of this small nation along the Mediterranean to which the Jewish people may repair citizenship and cooperation and development," he declared, adding that he hoped the U.N. could bring about peace in the Middle East between the Jews and the Arabs, and the new nation could "find a place at the council table of the U.N.," and that the nations would soon recognize it.

### Senator Urges U.S. to Seek Israel's Admission to U.N.

Senator Herbert R.O'Connor urged the U.S. to "pursue every effort consistent with our position among the family of nations" to aid the new state. He urged that the government lift the arms embargo and seek Israel's admission as a member of the U.N. "Let us be consistent," he said. "Our international policy should be in accord with realities. We cannot continue to welcome the new Jewish state with one hand, while with the other we hold her off from obtaining the means of defense which alone will permit her to win through this critical period of her existence."

Senator Irving M. Ives, New York Republican, said he was glad to note that the Administration had recognized "the realities of conditions as they are" in deciding to recognize the Jewish state. He urged this country to go through with the decision "regardless of the consequences." One of the first steps, he said, is to lift the arms embargo.

Senator Warren G. Magnuson, Washington Democrat, also said he hoped the U.S. would "stick to" its decision "and see that it is carried out." Senator Owen Brewster said he was gratified that the U.S. had been the first to extend recognition to Israel and that he hoped diplomatic representatives to the new state would be selected with due regard for the very delicate problems presented. He called for "immediate" lifting of the arms embargo "in order that this new state may be able now to defend itself against the obvious acts of aggression which have been notified by the government of Egypt to the U.N. Security Council."

### CANADIAN ZIONISTS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN FOR BUILDING OF PARLIAMENT FOR STATE OF ISRAEL

WINNIPEG, May 17. (JTA) -- A campaign to initiate the building of a House of Parliament for the state of Israel was launched here yesterday at a joint meeting of the national executive and national council of the Zionist Organization of Canada. The project was endorsed at some 50 meetings held throughout the Dominion in celebration of the establishment of Israel.

In Montreal some 20,000 persons jammed a meeting to celebrate the rebirth of the Jewish nation and to express solidarity with the citizens of the new state. Local Zionist youth groups and Jewish veterans paraded before the meeting began. A tremendous ovation greeted the reading of a resolution calling on Canada to be in the vanguard of the nations extending recognition to the Jewish state.

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SYNAGOGUE CONVENTION CLOSES; THANKS TRUMAN FOR RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

CHICAGO, May 17. (JTA) -- The United Synagogue of America convention, which adjourned here today, adopted a resolution last night expressing the "profound gratitude" of the 1,000 delegates to President Truman for his "forthright, wise and just act of leadership" in being the first head of a major power to extend recognition to Israel.

The parley also approved resolutions calling for the lifting of the American embargo on shipment of arms to Palestine; urging the U.S. to sponsor the admission of Israel to the United Nations; and expressing the hope that legislation to facilitate admission of DP's to this country would soon be passed.

The 1948 Solomon Schechter award to "our brethren in the displaced persons camps of Europe" was announced at a joint session of the United Synagogue and the Rabbinical Assembly of America. The award, which is usually given to a distinguished individual who has contributed outstanding service to the Jewish community, was made this year to a collective group "as a sacred pledge that American Israel will stand with the Jews unwaveringly in their struggle for ultimate redemption, for their return to Zion and for opening the gates of the world to the heroic guardians of humanity's worthiest values."

Former Adviser on Jewish Affairs to U.S. Army Appeals for Admission of Weak

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, former adviser on Jewish affairs to the U.S. military command in Europe, told the delegates, who represent more than 420,000 Conservative Jews in all parts of the U.S., that in its approach to the problem of Jewish homelessness in Europe, the new Jewish state faces a moral test no less critical than the military struggle for survival.

"Although potential soldiers and workers among the displaced persons are in the greatest demand," he declared, "the Jewish state will not be worthy of survival and, I understand God's law correctly, will not succeed in surviving, if it does not accept the old, the children, the families and the widows, even the weak and the sick."

Insisting that a Jewish state "without humanity and without charity would be inconceivable," Rabbi Bernstein continued: "To abandon the helpless Jews to Europe because they are not in the highest categories of usefulness would be as cynical and as evil as the conduct of the Nazis and the British Government in the face of Jewish need."

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF JEWISH SOCIAL WORK TO SET UP WORLD-WIDE OFFICES

ATLANTIC CITY, May 17. (JTA) -- Representatives from 11 countries gathered here today at the first parley of the International Conference of Jewish Social Work since 1935 to discuss problems of Jewish migration and reorganization of the group. The parley decided to establish offices in New York, Paris and Jerusalem.

Reports on present-day conditions of social welfare among Jewish communities in various parts of the world were also presented. Participants in the panel sessions included Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, Maurice Eizin, executive assistant of the HIAS, and Dr. G. Laundauer, of Jerusalem.

Louis Kraft, secretary of the National Council of the Jewish Welfare Board, was elected president of the Conference; Louis Sobel, director of the Jewish Child Care Agency, vice-president; and Dr. Frederick Ollendick, of Israel, secretary.

WORLD CONGRESS APPEALS TO U.N. COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JEWS IN ARAB LANDS

GENEVA, May 17. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress yesterday appealed to the Non-Governmental Organizations of the U.N. Economic and Social Council to urge the setting of the Committee to consider steps to prevent new violence in Arab countries.

500 JEWS ATTEND MASS MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES TO CELEBRATE BIRTH OF ISRAEL

BUENOS AIRES, May 17. (JTA) -- About 50,000 persons gathered here last night to greet the new state of Israel. The meeting, the largest Jewish demonstration ever in Argentina, also marked the launching of a special United Palestine Appeal campaign.

Among the speakers were delegates from Palestine and Jewish and non-Jewish Argentinian leaders. Most of the speakers expressed the hope that Argentina would soon recognize Israel. After the meeting members of the audience massed behind Argentinian Jewish flags and marched to the statue of San Martin, the Liberator, and laid a wreath on the monument.

OVER 50,000 CHICAGOANS JAM SALUTE TO ISRAEL RALLY; LIFTING OF ARMS EMBARGO URGED

CHICAGO, May 17. (JTA) -- More than 50,000 persons who jammed the Chicago Stadium here last night in a Salute to Israel rally sponsored by Americans for Haganah urged Senator Wayland Brooks, of Illinois, call for the immediate lifting of the Palestine arms embargo. Other speakers included Mayor Martin H. Kennelly and Bartley Crum, publisher of the New York newspaper PM and chairman of Americans for Haganah.

Crum urged the U.S. to freeze all payments to Arab states warring against the new state of Israel. He also proposed that the United Nations Security Council impose economic sanctions against such states. An exhibit of jeeps, trucks and other equipment assembled by the Materials for Palestine Committee scheduled for shipment to Israel was shown at the rally.

B'NAI B'RITH OFFICERS IN NEW YORK CONTRIBUTE BLOOD FOR SHIPMENT TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- The officers of the Metropolitan Council of B'nai B'rith today contributed blood to the plasma bank of the Red Mogen David for shipment to Israel. They initiated a campaign within the organization which is expected to bring between 25,000 and 45,000 B'nai B'rith members in this city to the plasma center.

Meanwhile, Frank Goldman, national president of the organization, telegraphed President Truman, expressing gratification at his recognition of Israel. The text of the message follows: "Delighted at your announcement of your official recognition of the Republic of Israel. Thousands of people of the Jewish faith will bless you for this act of wise statesmanship. I am certain that the American people and the people of Israel will maintain close friendship and together will foster the democratic way."

WORKMEN'S CIRCLE CONVENTION HAILS ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL; URGES U.S. TO LIFT EMBARGO

BOSTON, May 17. (JTA) -- The closing session of the Workmen's Circle convention here last night hailed the establishment of Israel and appealed to the United States to follow its recognition of the infant state by revoking the Palestine arms embargo. Ephim H. Jeshurun was re-elected national president of the organization, which is the largest Jewish fraternal labor group in the United States.

VETERANS SUPPORTING NEW YORK U.J.A. DRIVE TO SELL SMALL DENOMINATION "BONDS"

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- Veterans organizations supporting the United Jewish Appeal campaign in New York have decided to issue "Bonds of Hope" in an effort to raise half of the \$1,000,000 quota assumed by the local U.J.A.'s veterans division. Approved certificates will be issued in three denominations familiar to purchasers of government war bonds -- \$18.75, \$37.50 and \$75.00

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