

Wednesday, May 19, 1948

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

SEPARATE BATTLE DEVELOPS FOR OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM; SITUATION CONSIDERED CRITICAL

TEL AVIV, May 18. (JTA) -- The battle for the Old City of Jerusalem, where 500 Jews are besieged by Arab units, flared up again today with Jewish fighters continuously attacking the Jaffa Gate in a desperate attempt to reach the beleaguered sea.

The situation was considered critical after the Jewish units were forced to withdraw under heavy Arab fire this afternoon from the Old City into which they have penetrated during the night. Despite severe losses, the Jewish defenders inside the Old City were still holding out late today.

A new truce effort by the United Nations Truce Commission, backed by the consuls of the western powers, ended in a stalemate. Attacks by reinforced Arab units, supported by artillery fire from the hills outside of the city, are endangering the Holy Places within the ancient walls of the Old City.

Using heavy artillery, the Arabs also began shelling the Jewish sections of Jerusalem outside of the Old City. The areas under fire include the Meah Shearim, Beth Israel and Rehavia quarters. In the center of the city, Jewish forces now control the German Colony and the Musrara section.

Arabs Intensify Bombing of Tel Aviv; Jews Occupy Acre After Severe Fight

A number of Jewish civilians were killed and many were wounded in three air attacks on Tel Aviv. One of the enemy planes was later shot down near Ness Ziona and its pilot was captured by two uniformed Jewish girls, members of the Haganah.

(A Jewish plane was reported shot down by the Syrian air force over the Sea of Galilee, according to a communique issued in Damascus. The communique said that Syrian planes bombed Tiberias and destroyed parts of the Jewish settlement of Ramat Naphtali.)

The road to Western Galilee was opened today with the Arab surrender of the ancient fortress city of Acre to the Jewish forces. Arab acceptance of the Jewish military terms came after a fierce three-day battle. The Jews insisted on the surrender of all arms and the arrest of all non-Palestine Arabs.

Lt. Gen. Gordon H.A. MacMillan, British military commander in Palestine, today assured both the Arabs and the Jews in Haifa that the city would remain safe as long as the British were in control of the port city. He declared that he would not permit the city to be used as a military base for any force, nor would he permit it to become the target of either party. He added that the Jews will continue to administer the airport and that part of the harbor not used by the British.

ISH GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES STATE OF ISRAEL; BECOMES FOURTH NATION TO ACT

WARSAW, May 18. (JTA) -- The Polish Government today officially recognized the state of Israel, the Warsaw radio announced. Poland is the fourth nation to grant recognition to the Jewish state.

3. RECOGNIZED ISRAEL ON BASIS OF PARTITION DECISION, AUSTIN TELLS SECURITY COUNCIL

LAKE SUCCESS, May 18. (JTA) -- In the first outspoken declaration of America's official attitude toward the new state of Israel, Sen. Warren R. Austin today revealed that U.S. recognition applied to the territory described in the Jewish proclamation of May 14 was based on the General Assembly's partition resolution of last November 29.

Austin refused to accept the challenge thrown out by Faris El Khouri of Syria that the United States justify its act of de facto recognition before the Security Council. There was no tribunal anywhere in the world, he said, which could question the sovereign right of the United States to recognize Israel or any other state. "It was a practical step," he added, "in recognition of the realities of the Palestine situation."

He attacked the Arab objections to addressing a fact-finding questionnaire to the "Provisional Government of Israel." He called the objections "spurious" and "of no validity."

"The United States has recognized the Provisional Government of Israel and when it refers to that government it will call it the Provisional Government of Israel," Austin declared. In deference to the "very delicate feelings that seem to creep around this horseehoe," he made it plain that the U.S. delegation would not propose substituting the words "Jewish authorities in Palestine." This had been suggested by Council President Alexandre Parodi of France to allay Arab fears that open reference to the Government of Israel would imply recognition by the United Nations.

A decision to address the questionnaire to the "Jewish Authorities in Palestine" was adopted late this evening after a full day of bickering on how the Israel government should be addressed. Britain, China and the Arab countries were opposed to the proposed U.S. wording.

Major Aubrey Eban of the Jewish Agency pointed out that if the Council desired factual information it would have to communicate with the Israel Government which is the only one exercising control in the area. He would not, however, oppose addressing the questionnaire to the "Jewish authorities in Palestine" so long as the Council understood that the Government of Israel was the only such authority, he said.

Vassil Tarasenko of the U.S.S.R. said the debate had justified "all our fears." He called for immediate action to stop the fighting in Palestine. Aimless discussion of the questions and their wording could go on indefinitely while the warfare continued, he stressed. "That was the practice of the League of Nations," Tarasenko warned, "and also the chief reason for its failure."

Moshe Shertok, Foreign Minister of Israel, today informed the Security Council that Arab fighters are using the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem as the base for a heavy attack on the Jewish quarter of the Old City. Shertok's message said the Armenian Patriarch had informed the Jewish Agency liaison officer in Jerusalem that "armed Arabs forced their way into the patriarchate building which is within the walls of the Old City notwithstanding the protest that the place was holy."

Soviet delegate Andrei Gromyko said he believed the Security Council is wasting time by addressing questionnaires to the Jews and Arabs. He charged that governments which were unwilling to see peace in the Middle East were "grabbing at the question" in a clumsy maneuver to gain time.

5/19/48

DISPLACED JEWS IN GERMANY TOLD TO PREPARE FOR LIFE IN ISRAEL; FIGHTERS TO GO FIRST

MUNICH, May 18. (JTA) -- Climaxing several days of celebrations honoring the establishment of Israel, a large meeting arranged by the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the U.S. zone was held today at the Prince Regent Opera House here.

More than 3,000 displaced Jews heard officials of the U.S. Army, the International Refugee Organization and the voluntary Jewish relief agencies express best wishes for the formation of Israel. Jewish displaced persons were urged to prepare themselves for life in the new state.

Chaim Hoffman, Jewish Agency director for Germany and Austria, addressing the meeting, declared that "now the Jews here must work and train to fight and build for Israel. The first immigrants who will go there will be potential fighters since the fight in Israel will be won not by international armies, but by the Jews themselves."

AMERICAN ZIONISTS THANK TRUMAN FOR RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL; WANT ARMS EMBARGO LIFTED

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- A resolution thanking President Truman for his prompt recognition of the state of Israel and calling upon the U.S. Government to endorse its action by "taking immediate and energetic measures to check the Arab states' aggression and provide aid for the newly-created Jewish state" was adopted today at an all-day session of the national executive committee of the Zionist Organization of America, attended by 120 members.

The session decided that the 51st annual convention of the organization be held in Pittsburgh from July 2 through July 5. The meeting also sent warm felicitations to President Chaim Weizmann and Premier David Ben Gurion of Israel and also paid tribute to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, and Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Z.O.A. president, for their roles in the fight for a Jewish state.

A portrait of Dr. Jorge Garcia Granados, U.N. delegate from Guatemala and one of the staunchest supporters of partition in the United Nations, was presented to Dr. Granados at the session. The portrait was painted by Lieber Friedenthal, a native Palestinian artist.

Dr. Silver, who addressed the meeting briefly, warned that there were still "breakers ahead and that never-failing alertness must be the keynote." Terming America's recognition of Israel an "act of friendship," Dr. Silver emphasized that this act will have to be translated into "concrete acts of helpfulness." He also urged the lifting of the Palestine arms embargo and the extension of lend-lease to the new state. "The sincerity of our government," he declared, "will be tested by these concrete acts of the next few days."

TRUMAN'S SWIFT RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL PRAISED ON HOUSE FLOOR; CALL FOR EMBARGO LIFTING

WASHINGTON, May 18. (JTA) -- Several Democrats addressing the House today praised President Truman's prompt recognition of the republic of Israel and his stand in calling upon the U.N. to restore peace in Palestine. They also urged the lifting of the arms embargo as the next step.

The Congressmen who approved the Administration's attitude were Abraham J. Walter and Arthur G. Klein of New York and John A. Blatnik of Minnesota. Similar sentiments were voiced in the Senate by Olin D. Johnston of South Carolina. However, Rep. El Cassett, of Texas, charged the President with having "jeopardized world peace for the votes of 3,000,000 Jews in New York City."

LECTION OF WEIZMANN HAILED BY AMERICAN PRESS AND LEADING JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- The election of Dr. Chaim Weizmann as President of Provisional Government of Israel was hailed today in leading American newspapers by Jewish leaders and major Jewish communal organizations.

The New York Times commented editorially that his election "comes now as a natural reward for years of faithful and distinguished service." After reviewing Dr. Weizmann's career in many fields, it added that "he is bound to prove a powerful pillar of state in building the new nation which he helped so much to bring into being."

The Herald Tribune called the selection "a deserved recognition of a lifetime service to the cause which Israel embodies." Pointing out that the civil strife in Palestine has become an avowed war, the newspaper insists that Israel needs more than respect for her President.

"If the war is permitted to continue on its present basis--that is, without determination by the United Nations of the merits of the case--the United States must, in simple fairness, lift the arms embargo to permit Israel to obtain arms," it declared. "The embargo, as it now stands, is a negative act which gives positive aid to the Arabs, and as such is not even consonant with a neutral attitude on the part of this country."

Flag of Israel Hoisted Over Waldorf-Astoria, Residence of Dr. Weizmann

The flag of Israel was today flown side-by-side with the American flag at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel where Dr. Weizmann is living during his stay in New York. According to protocol the flag of his nation flies over the residence of the chief of state wherever he may be. Dr. Emanuel Neumann today visited President Weizmann at his hotel and extended to him the well wishes of the Zionist Organization of America. A message of felicitations was also sent to Dr. Weizmann by Dr. Israel Goldstein, in behalf of the World Confederation of General Zionists.

In a message to Dr. Weizmann, the Jewish Labor Committee hailed his election, stating that "no man living has contributed so much" toward the creation of Israel. "We have deep faith that under your leadership the state of Israel will be steered in the direction of building the community to attain economic and political equality for all inhabitants so that peace and justice will prevail for our long suffering people."

Expressing the deep appreciation of all American Jews for President Truman's contribution "to the consummation of the two-thousand-year-old hope of the Jewish people," Louis Lipsky, chairman of the executive committee of the American Jewish Conference, appealed today to the Chief Executive "to check the lawless invasion by neighboring Arab states into the state of Israel." Lipsky urged that the U.S. "support action in the Security Council leading to the indictment of the Arab states as aggressors and that the government allow the shipment of arms and munitions to Israel to enable it to defend itself."

Greetings were today sent to the women of Israel and to the new Jewish state by Dr. Gene Weltfish, president of the Congress of American Women, who hailed the constitutional guarantees of equality irrespective of race, religion or sex, as enunciated by Premier David Ben Gurion in his proclamation a few days ago. In another message to Ben Gurion, the Congress pledged "itself to urge America to lift the arms embargo against the Jews and to help them repel foreign invasion."

Mrs. Israel Goldstein, president of Pioneer Women, the women's labor Zionist Organization of America, speaking for its 30,000 members, pledged loyal support to the new Jewish nation, and declared: "We accept the challenge which destiny has decreed to us to be an example to the world of the meaning of justice, brotherhood and understanding."

5/19/48

3. OFFICIALS WANT REFUGEE IMMIGRANTS TO LAND AT SEAPORT FAR FROM NEW YORK CITY

ATLANTIC CITY, May 18. (JTA) -- A number of U.S. Government officials have indicated the desirability of landing refugee immigrants at a seaport far from New York City, it was revealed today at the annual convention of the National Conference Jewish Social Welfare meeting here.

In disclosing this, Joseph E. Beck, executive director of the United Service for New Americans, emphasized that "this means that the immigrants will have to be distributed rapidly throughout the land." He estimated that some 27,000 to 30,000 Jews will enter the United States annually for the next two years if the Fellows Bill is passed.

"About 600,000 Jews now in Europe may eventually emigrate to the new Jewish state of Israel," Dr. Nathan Reich, research consultant of the Joint Distribution Committee, told the meeting.

"The first category of immigrants, in terms of urgency, which will receive top priority in resettlement," Dr. Reich declared, "comprises the 200,000-odd displaced Jews now in Germany, Italy and Cyprus. The second broad category comprises the approximately 800,000 Jews living in the countries stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea--Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

"In terms of objective conditions, the bulk of the Jews in this area could, with continued aid and over a period of years, become re-established. However, the past experiences of the Jews in this area; the latent, but deep-seated hostility on the part of substantial segments of national populations; the instinctive lack of faith in the future and the almost pathological fear that things that have happened in the past may happen again, are factors which combined produce the wide-spread desire to leave. Whether this desire to leave will actually harden into determination to leave, depends on the developments both in the Eastern European countries and in the new Jewish state," he said.

"The third category includes the Jews of Western Europe, the bulk of whom are of little importance as a source of emigration potential," he said. Expressing the opinion that the establishment of Israel would have no immediate effect on the relief needs of the Jews in Europe, Dr. Reich stated that it might reduce the relief load on the Continent within the next few years. He said that any reduction in the cost of assisting the Jews of Europe might be offset by several major factors, including: 1. The need for increased aid to Jews in Moslem countries; 2. The increased cost of services to Jews remaining in Europe, "who might constitute an older age group unable to care for its own needs."

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY WILL OPEN "MODESTLY," PRESIDENT SACHAR SAYS; WILL STRESS QUALITY

BOSTON, May 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Abram L. Sachar, first president of Brandeis University, said today that the new Jewish-sponsored secular school of higher learning at nearby Waltham will begin operating "modestly" this fall with emphasis on "quality" for students and faculty.

Dr. Sachar told a press conference that he hopes that close "personal relationships" between undergraduates and professors will "develop almost into a tutorial system." This will be achieved, he said, by keeping a numerical faculty-student ratio of 10 to 1, while the residence of faculty members will be located near the campus. Most of the faculty for the freshman class has been selected and approved by the Brandeis University trustees, he declared.

NATIONAL U.J.A. CONFERENCE TO BE HELD THIS WEEK-END IN N.Y. TO MAP EXODUS FROM DP CAMPS

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- Plans for financing the mass exodus of Europe's homeless Jews from the displaced persons camps of central Europe and Cyprus to the Jewish state of Israel will be drawn up by American Jewish leaders from all sections of the country at an emergency national conference of the United Jewish Appeal which will be held at the Hotel Astor here this Saturday evening, May 22, and Sunday, May 23, it was announced today by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the U.J.A.

RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY URGES DEVELOPMENT OF "SPIRITUAL ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY" FOR U.S. JEWS

CHICAGO, May 18. (JTA) -- Speakers at today's session of the 48th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly of America agreed that one of the "major tasks of the American rabbinate is to help build a spiritual absorptive capacity in the Jewish community so that it may derive the maximum benefit from the religious and cultural influences which will flow from the Jewish state of Israel."

The 250 Conservative rabbis from all parts of the U.S. and Canada attending the meeting heard Rabbi Morris Adler, of Detroit, assert that while "the role of the Jewish state is secure and central in the economy of Jewish life, we must not fall into the error of placing unreasonable reliance upon it for our cultural and spiritual salvation as a Jewish community."

About 90 rabbis are now enrolled in the Assembly's retirement program, it was reported, while approximately a score of refugee rabbis have been placed in pulpits throughout the country through the cooperation of the Assembly and the United Service for New Americans.

A call for the organization of a "World Union for Conservative Judaism" was sounded here last night by Rabbi Israel M. Goldman, president of the Assembly. Reviewing the activities of two Assembly missions sent to Latin America and Italy last year, as well as the flow of correspondence with Jewish religious leaders in all parts of the world, Dr. Goldman declared:

"The global unity of Jewish life is recognized by all and the time is now ripe for us to give organizational expression of a world-wide character to our movement. I am confident that when Conservative Judaism, the first Jewish religious movement indigenous to the United States, undertakes such a move, the seeds we have planted here in the past 60 years will flourish in other lands as well."

Rabbi Bernard Segal, executive director of the Assembly, presented a report on the organization's achievements of the past year. Pointing out that courts of Jewish law had previously functioned only in the Greater New York area, Rabbi Segal said that such courts have now been organized in Chicago and in Philadelphia. The courts, he explained, deal with the interpretation of Jewish religious law and are under the supervision of the Assembly's law commission.

Samuel Rothstein, president of the United Synagogue of America, was re-elected for an additional term at the organization's closing convention session here last night.

DR. JULIUS MARK, OF NASHVILLE, TO BECOME RABBI OF TEMPLE EMANUE-EL IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- Temple Emanue-El, largest Reform congregation in the United States, announced today that its Board of Trustees has approved the recommendation of its pulpit committee to elect Dr. Julius Mark, of Nashville, Tenn., senior rabbi of the temple to succeed Dr. Samuel H. Goldenson, who became rabbi emeritus in 1941. At the same time, the temple, through its president, Lewis L. Strauss, announced that Rabbi Nathan I. Perilman, at present associate rabbi, will be designated rabbi of the congregation.

ALL INFORMATION IN THIS BULLETIN ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION