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WEIZMANN PAYS OFFICIAL CALL ON TRUMAN; URGES EMBARGO LIFTING; SEEKS \$100,000,000 LOAN

WASHINGTON, May 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the first President of Israel, today paid a visit to President Truman at the White House. This was the first official call that the head of the reborn Jewish state has paid on President Truman or the head of any other state.

During the historic meeting President Weizmann presented Truman with a Torah as a symbol of friendship between the American and Israeli peoples. He also discussed with the Chief Executive the lifting of the arms embargo on Israel and a loan of \$90,000,000-\$100,000,000. Weizmann came away from the interview with the impression that his pleas had not been in vain, although some time would elapse before the United States Government would act on either matter.

President Weizmann entered the White House this morning at 11:30 on the arm of Brig.-Gen. Charles T. Latham, military aide to President Truman. He was accompanied by Stanley Woodward, State Department Chief of Protocol, and David Niles, executive assistant to President Truman. After a half-hour interview, Weizmann presented the American President with the Torah in a ceremony in the Rose Garden of the White House. A report that Brig.-Gen. Julius Klein, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans, will serve as Dr. Weizmann's military aide during his stay in the U.S. was termed here today as baseless.

At a press conference at Blair Lee House later, Dr. Weizmann spoke to newsmen of his visit. Referring to the major points discussed between the two Presidents, Dr. Weizmann said: "I tried to explain that it was essential to our safety to lift the arms embargo." When asked if Truman had given him any indication when such a move might take place, the President of Israel replied that Truman had not, but that the impression he came away with was that the U.S. Government was studying the problem. "I am afraid that I cannot comment very much on the President's reply, but I left with some sort of hope that we might achieve this at some later date," he declared.

As for the loan, Dr. Weizmann said he had asked for "a medium-sized loan," adding: "We have such a tiny country." The loan, which he described as not large in the American concept of loans, would be used for military and reconstruction purposes, he revealed. Reporting Truman's reaction to the loan request, he stated that the President had said: "There is no trouble about that because the Jews always pay their debts."

Says 15,000 Displaced Jews Will Be Admitted Monthly to Israel

Speaking of the reconstruction program under way in Israel, the Israeli President said that it was made more urgent by the necessity for bringing in the displaced Jews of Europe. He pointed out that it would require a huge organizing effort and large sums of money to transport, house and clothe the immigrants at the planned

rate of 15,000 per month. The latest immigrants to Israel are practically destitute, a factor which makes their integration within the country's life more difficult, he asserted.

"Now that the doors of Israel are open our duty is to bring them in in dignity and honor and see that they live properly," he emphasized. Asked how soon the movement of immigrants could be organized, he replied that it could be done almost immediately. He stated that the Jews have some ships available for the purpose and that summer weather will be of assistance in the project.

Asked if he had raised the question of an exchange of diplomatic representatives between the two states, Dr. Weizmann declared that he had left a letter with Truman discussing this and other problems. He also reported that he had expressed his regrets at the death of American Consul-General Thomas C. Wesson and U.S. Navy Engineer Herbert C. Walker in Jerusalem.

Questioned about the Jewish seizure of Jaffa and Acre, Dr. Weizmann stated that the Israeli forces had captured the cities as protective measures and that the Jews would evacuate them if a truce was arranged.

Commenting on the Arab reaction to the U.N. cease-fire order, he said it was "extremely difficult" to tell whether the Arab League states would abide by the order, but that he thought some of them would. He sharply criticized the "vandalistic" Arab Legion for bombing and destroying hospitals, universities and cultural centers and in Jerusalem some of the Moslem shrines. "The hospitals, universities, concert halls and other such buildings now under attack by the Arabs have served up to 50 per cent of Arab patients and patrons," he said.

Rep. Donald L. O'Toole today sent wires to Senate President Arthur M. Vandenberg and House Speaker Joseph M. Martin suggesting that President Weizmann be invited to address a joint session of Congress. Such an invitation would do much to "hearten the people of this young country," O'Toole declared.

U.S. SENDS PROTEST TO EGYPT AND SYRIA FOR BLOCKADING PALESTINE; LEBANON TO FREE U.S. JEWS

WASHINGTON, May 25. (JTA) -- The United States Government has protested to Egypt and Syria against the imposition of a blockade on American shipping off the Palestine coast, the State Department revealed today. It was also disclosed that the Lebanese Government has informed U.S. Minister Lowell C. Pinkerton that it will release 41 American Jews removed by force from the Marine Camp in Beirut harbor and interned at a former Syrian Army camp on condition that they return directly to the United States.

A State Department spokesman told newsmen that S. Pinkney Tuck, Ambassador to Egypt, and Robert Memminger, charge d'Affaires in Damascus, have been instructed to protest the proclamation of a blockade of the coast of Palestine by the governments to which they are accredited. He asserted that the U.S. could not recognize such action as valid on the basis of the traditional American policy opposed to seizure or stoppage of ships on the high seas.

In his message to the State Department, Pinkerton said that the Lebanese Government would not permit the 41 American citizens to proceed to Palestine. He added that this information is being relayed to each of the interned American citizens for their individual reaction. The Department spokesman said he could not predict whether the release of the 41 under this condition would close the case as far as the U.S. Government is concerned.

Paul Hoffman, E.R.P. administrator, today promised the Senate Appropriations Committee a full report on charges that American aid to Britain is bolstering the Arab invasion of Palestine. Under questioning by the Senate group which must approve funds for the E.R.P., Hoffman was asked by Chairman Styles Bridges to investigate charges "which several Senators have laid before the Appropriations Committee."

JEWS REGAIN FULL CONTROL OF JORDAN VALLEY; REPULSE SYRIAN ATTACKS; RAID LEBANON

TEL AVIV, May 25. (JTA) -- The Jews are once again in full control of the Jordan Valley south of the Sea of Galilee, following the recapture yesterday of the settlements of Shaar Hagolah and Masada at the head of the valley, the Haganah revealed today.

Further to the north the Jews beat off new attempts by the Syrians to recapture Samakh and two Syrian planes were shot down during yesterday's and last night's operations. By this morning the entire southern shore of the Sea of Galilee (Lake Tiberias) was again in Jewish hands.

(A Lebanese communique reported today that an Israeli striking force had raided the village of Taibe, two-and-half miles inside Lebanon. Several villagers were attacked and some houses were destroyed before the raiders withdrew, the communique said.)

The settlement of Kinereth, on the eastern shore of the Sea, was bombed by the Syrians, while Arab concentrations at Lubia, Tel el Kasar and Fiu were bombed by Israeli planes. The Haganah captured the Arab village of Hareb, just across the border in Syria, and seized large stores of supplies and munitions. Six armored vehicles loaded with Syrian troops fleeing the town were blown up when they hit mines strewn around the village. All the Syrians were killed.

King Abdullah of Transjordan today announced that the Palestine Potash Company's installations were in a "neutral zone." The proclamation, however, followed by several days the evacuation of Beth Haarava, a Jewish village north of the Dead Sea in which the company's workers lived. Before they withdrew, the Jews instituted a scorched earth policy and burned most of the company's installations.

Jews Evacuate First Settlement in Negev; All Settlers Leave During Night

The first Jewish settlement in the Negev to be evacuated since the beginning of hostilities last November was abandoned last night after a battle began between Jewish troops sent to relieve the settlement--Yad Mordechai--and Egyptian troops blockading it. One Jewish unit succeeded in fighting its way through the Egyptian lines and reaching the settlement where its members aided the wounded. After this breakthrough it was decided to withdraw from the colony. All settlers and Haganah troops, including the wounded, retreated during the night. At the same time Israeli planes bombed the Majdal area in southern Palestine.

A Haganah communique this morning reported that Egyptian planes yesterday damaged a mosque when they bombed Jaffa. The communique also mentioned several exchanges of fire at Kfar Saba and Meshek Hatzar, in central Palestine.

The Provisional Government was today considering the drafts of statutes setting up a Jewish Army and a Justice Ministry. The first prison was established at the Tel Mond police station and the Inspector-General of Police and Prisons and his deputy were named. The Inspector-General is Yehezkiel Sacharov, a former major in the Jewish Brigade, and his deputy is Yossef Nachmias, also a former major in the Brigade. Jewish authorities were reported studying applications from former Arab members of the Palestine police to join the Israeli police force.

Arab radio reports said that Arab League leaders now in Amman met today to discuss the Security Council's call for a cease-fire in Palestine. They afterwards lunched with King Abdullah and the Regent of Iraq at the Royal Palace. The meeting lasted 90 minutes. No statement was issued to the press but it was indicated that a reply to the truce proposal is being sent to Faris el Khouri, Syrian delegate at Lake Success.

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SITUATION ON JERUSALEM FRONT EASED; JEWS REGAIN SUBURB; HOLD THEIR POSITION IN OLD CITY

JERUSALEM, May 25. (JTA) -- The suburb of Ramath Rachel, a half-mile south of Jerusalem and considered one of the important approaches to the city, is once again in Jewish hands, a Haganah communique issued here said today. The suburb, half destroyed by two days of incessant fighting, has changed hands four times within the past 48 hours.

The communique stated that after the last Israeli counterattack large stores of Arab arms and supplies and tens of bodies were found left in the town's defense perimeter by the retreating Transjordan and Egyptian forces. The son of Itzhak Gruenbaum, member of the Provisional Government, was reported killed in the fighting at Ramath Rachel.

In the Old City, meanwhile, the battle between Arab Legionnaires and their outnumbered and outgunned Jewish opponents continues with the Jews apparently holding their own. The famous Sephardic Nissim Bek Synagogue captured by Legionnaires in the Old City has been dynamited and destroyed. The Irgun reported that a Legion attempt to break out of the Damascus Gate, on the northwestern perimeter of the Old City, in the direction of Irgun gun positions around the Notre Dame Hospice, was repulsed and two of the enemy's armored cars were destroyed.

Legion artillery in the Old City and the Sheikh Jarrach quarter continued to pound the center of the Jewish section of the city. Most of the shells fell in or near Ben Yehuda Street, one of the main Jewish business thoroughfares. New trenches, stone barricades and machinegun nests are being built in all Jewish-held sections of the city in preparation for a house-to-house and street-to-street defense.

SAUDI ARABIA REPLIES TO U.N. CALL FOR TRUCE; DEMANDS HALTING OF IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

LAKE SUCCESS, May 25. (JTA) -- Saudi Arabia today demanded that the U.N. halt all Jewish immigration as a pre-condition of eventual Arab compliance with the Security Council's cease-fire request. "The attitude of the Saudi Arabian Government is exactly the same as that of the Arab League," a message to the Security Council declared.

No word has yet been received here by Faris el Khouri of Syria, who has been designated by the Arab League to give its answer to the Security Council cease-fire order, about the decision supposedly taken at Amman this morning by the Arab Foreign Ministers. He predicted that the Arabs would refuse to heed the order. The Saudi Arabian communication also stated that Ibn Saud's desert kingdom would cooperate with Count Folke Bernadotte, the U.N. mediator, if his efforts were directed towards setting up a unitary state.

While the United Nations marked time today, awaiting the replies from the Arab states which are due by tomorrow afternoon at the latest, speculation here centered on a private luncheon meeting at which Sen. Warren Austin played host to Secretary of State George C. Marshall. Other guests were Alexandre Parodi, Council president, U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie and Assistant Secretary-General Byron Price.

From Jerusalem, Lie today received an urgent appeal for "immediate intervention" to spare what is left of the Holy Places and the Jewish community. The appeal came from Isaac Herzog and Ben Zion Uziel, Chief Rabbis of Israel, and Joseph Dushinsky, Chief Rabbi of the Agudas Israel Organization.

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BEVIN REJECTS CHURCHILL'S DEMAND IN PARLIAMENT FOR FULL STATEMENT ON PALESTINE

LONDON, May 25. (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, refusing to make a full statement on Palestine, as was requested by opposition leader Winston Churchill, today told the House of Commons that the British Government is attempting to do two things in the present Palestine war:

1. To have the U.N. Security Council adopt a resolution on Palestine which would be sufficiently objective and impartial to have a chance for acceptance by both sides in the conflict; 2. To use its influence to ensure the acceptance of a cease-fire in the Palestine war.

He asked Commons to refrain from a debate, declaring that such a debate "would prejudice the present important discussions." He also refused to consider a demand by W. Gallacher, Communist M.P., to issue a statement expressing "support for the maintenance of the state of Israel."

Problem of British Officers Serving with Arab Legion Under Study

A Foreign Office spokesman confirmed today that the problem of British officers who are currently serving with the Transjordan Arab Legion is under consideration by the government. He said that the entire question will be solved in agreement with the Transjordanian Government, adding that the British Government "is using its best endeavors" in the Arab states capitals to bring about agreement to the U.N. Security Council's truce orders.

Emphasizing the importance of a joint Anglo-American approach to the Palestine problem, the spokesman denied that there is any ban on the disembarkation of immigrants at Haifa. He asserted that no instructions to that effect had been sent to Haifa nor had the British military commander in Haifa issued any such orders.

Meanwhile, diplomatic circles here say that Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin is considering whether or not he should recall to Britain the British officers now serving under King Abdullah, most of whom still take their orders from London. Bevin is reportedly anxious about these officers since it had not been anticipated that they would participate in the Arab bombardment of Jerusalem.

Any move to withdraw the 40-odd British officers now leading the Arab Legion, it is felt here, would do much to satisfy American opinion, but it is unlikely any such move will be made unless it is accompanied by "a corresponding gesture" on the other side.

U.N. MEDIATOR FOR PALESTINE ARRIVES IN PARIS; SAYS HIS MISSION MAY NOT SUCCEED

PARIS, May 25. (JTA) -- Count Folke Bernadotte, who has been appointed United Nations mediator in the Palestine conflict, told a press conference here today that he knows his mission has little chance for success. He revealed that he is flying to Athens en route to Palestine on Thursday in a special plane that has been painted white and that bears Red Cross and U.N. markings.

Bernadotte, who during the closing months of the war was instrumental in rescuing hundreds of Jews imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps, bringing them to Sweden, told newsmen that he would attempt to solve the Palestine problem on a humanitarian, not political, basis. He also revealed that he is seeing "important persons" in Paris, including French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault.

CUBAN CABINET EXPECTED TO CONSIDER QUESTION OF RECOGNIZING ISRAEL AT NEXT SESSION

HAVANA, May 25. (JTA) -- The question of granting recognition to Israel is expected to come up for discussion at the next session of the Cuban Cabinet, it was reliably learned here today.

Meanwhile, newspaper advertisements calling on Arabs and all those who are pro-Arab to vote for Dr. Carlos Prío Socarras for President in the June Presidential elections have been appearing regularly here for the past few weeks. Socarras has the support of the incumbent, Dr. Ramon Grau San Martin. The ads stress that Cuba's anti-partition vote in the United Nations General Assembly last November "has won the hearts of the Arab states."

SOUTHWESTERN ZIONIST REGION TO SET UP HOUSING PROJECT IN ISRAEL FOR 3,000 PERSONS

SAVANNAH, Ga., May 25. (JTA) -- The Southwestern Region of the Zionist Organization of America, at a special meeting here last night, decided to raise \$1,350,000 for the establishment of a housing project in Israel which will accommodate more than 3,000 refugee immigrants.

Zionist groups throughout the U.S. are organizing similar housing projects in anticipation of the tremendous housing needs which are expected to arise when the influx of Jewish immigrants to Israel increases in the near future.

GENERAL SYNOD OF DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH CALLS FOR AID TO ISRAEL IN MESSAGE TO CHURCHES

THE HAGUE, May 25. (JTA) -- "Israel is the mirror of the world's distress, as it was during the war and the Lord's ancient people must have the special care of the church," was the keynote of a message from the general synod of the Dutch Reformed Church read from all the churches' pulpits.

FLAG OF ISRAEL HOISTED ATOP PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL BY MAYOR SAMUEL; LEADERS JOIN CEREMONY

PHILADELPHIA, May 25. (JTA) -- The flag of Israel was unfurled today from City Hall by Mayor Bernard Samuel of this city. Judge Louis E. Levinthal, former president of the Zionist Organization of America, Judge Harry E. Kalodner, president of the Philadelphia Zionist Organization, Rabbi Max D. Klein and others participated in the hoisting of the flag ceremonies.

R. SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UNION OF ORTHODOX CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA

NEW YORK, May 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Samuel Nirenstein was re-elected yesterday president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America at the closing session of the organization's 50th annual convention.

Dr. Nirenstein disclosed that a budget of \$200,000 for this year has been approved by the Union for the coordination and expansion of Orthodox religious activities in various parts of the U.S. The Union will soon open several field offices in large Jewish urban centers, he said.

SAMUEL REESE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR POLISH JEWS

ATLANTIC CITY, May 25. (JTA) -- Samuel Reese was elected president of the American Federation for Polish Jews last night at the closing session of the organization's national convention here. A resolution expressing the Federation's thanks to the United States for its swift recognition of Israel was adopted by the delegates. Dr. Solomon Tucker was elected vice-president of the Federation.

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