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ARAB GOVERNMENTS REJECT U.N. CEASE-FIRE ORDER; DEMAND PALESTINE SOLUTION WITHIN 48 HOURS

LAKE SUCCESS, May 26. (JTA) -- The Arab League tonight formally rejected the Security Council's cease-fire request and countered with a virtual ultimatum to the Council setting a 48-hour limit upon any new proposal for the solution of the Palestine problem to be considered by the League's political committee.

The Iraqi delegate, Al-Asil, delivered the declaration in the name of all seven Arab League states. He insisted that the present cease-fire request would aggravate rather than improve the situation so long as Jewish immigrants and Jewish arms flowed into Israel. He requested the dissolution of all Zionist groups in Palestine, the stoppage of Jewish immigration and the renunciation by the Jews of their newly-proclaimed state.

Maj. Aubrey Eban, Israeli representative, termed the Arab reply a "flat and defiant" rejection. "All the ambiguity of the Arab position has now been stripped away," he said. "If the Arabs want peace, they can have it. If they want war, they can have that, too. Israel will not commit suicide at their request. They are seeking the fruit of a victory which has not even been won."

British Delegate Says Arabs Must Capture Jerusalem to Save Face

John Fletcher-Cooke, a member of the British delegation, declared that the Arab League "could not possibly accept" the Council's cease-fire order "until they score a major military success." He admitted that the military situation was unfavorable to the Arab armies, adding that if the Transjordan Legion should eventually capture Jerusalem, the Arabs might then be ready to cease firing. Otherwise, the Arab leaders would lose face at home, he said.

American readiness to give Bevin more time for his interventions with Abdullah and the other Arab leaders, which amounts to countenancing further bloodshed until the Arabs can retreat with dignity, was indicated today by a spokesman for the U.S. delegation.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Israeli Government declared that exaggerated Arab claims had given the public a wholly distorted picture of the Jerusalem fighting. Israeli forces control "almost all" of modern Jerusalem, the spokesman pointed out, and, in the Old City, he said, Jews there were outnumbered 15 to one even before the mandate ended.

He asserted that elsewhere in Palestine Haganah holds the upper hand. Israel is in "complete control of the populated territory allocated to it under the General Assembly's resolution and its forces have not merely repelled the attacks of five armies but have taken the offensive and today control all of Galilee," he declared.

United Nations circles expressed great interest today in a Moscow announcement that the Soviet Government has agreed to exchange diplomatic representatives with Israel. A Russian statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok.

ISRAELI ARAB FORCES OPEN FIGHT-TO-FINISH FOR OLD CITY AS ARAB STATES REJECT CEASE-FIRE

TEL AVIV, May 26. (JTA) -- Arab and Israeli troops today opened a fight-to-the-finish in a pitched battle of mounting fury for final control of Jerusalem's Old City following the Arab states' rejection of the United Nations Security Council's cease-fire order.

Haganah headquarters in Jerusalem today denied that the modern section of the city, where 100,000 Jews are concentrated, was bombed by high-flying Arab planes yesterday. Haganah said that in fact central Jerusalem was subjected to the usual random artillery bombardment and incendiary mortars. However, enemy aircraft raided Rehovoth, Bitzaron and Gan Yavneh.

The fighting fronts in the Western Galilee and in the Negev were generally quiet today. Haganah said that Israeli planes bombed strong enemy concentrations near Latrun yesterday where heavy fighting has been raging for several days. Arab reports that 600 Israeli fighters had been killed at Latrun were discounted here.

400 Arabs Killed in Yad Mordechai Battle, Haganah Reports

Haganah headquarters revealed today that at least 400 Egyptian troops were killed during the last seven days of fighting at Yad Mordechai, in the Negev, which was evacuated yesterday. At the same time, Haganah reported, 24 Jews were killed and 40 wounded in the action.

Delayed reports reaching here by plane from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Bureau in Jerusalem say that the morale of the city's Jews is high. The Haganah commander in the city has issued an order to all Jews in Jerusalem to "go about your business as usual." The "heroic fight against stronger enemy forces who are unable to make any headway against the defenders of the Old City" continues, one dispatch says. The "gallant fight in the Old City reminds one of the Roman siege nearly 2,000 years ago," the report added.

Highly authoritative circles said today in Jerusalem that Thomas C. Wasson, the U.S. consul who was shot by snipers Saturday and died of his wounds a day later, said while he was dying that he was shot at by Arabs. A letter expressing the regrets of the Israeli community over the death of Wasson and U.S. Navy Engineman Walker was dispatched today to the American consulate by Isaac Ben Zvi, on behalf of the Jewish National Council.

UNITED STATES DISPATCHES PLANES TO NEAR EAST TO EVACUATE AMERICANS "IN CASE OF NEED"

WASHINGTON, May 26. (JTA) -- The State Department announced today that about 25 transport planes of the Air Force have arrived in Cyprus from Europe and that, "in view of the unsettled conditions in the Near East," these planes are being held at the Nicosia airport to evacuate American citizens from that area "in case of need."

The planes are to stand by in Cyprus in case they are needed to evacuate U.S. citizens from any spot in that area where trouble exists or breaks out, including the Jerusalem area, State Department press officer Lincoln White said, estimating the number of U.S. citizens in Palestine at present at 4,200.

PRESIDENT WEIZMANN LEAVES U.S.; WILL CONFER WITH BRITISH STATESMEN ON ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 26. (JTA) -- President Chaim Weizmann of Israel left the United States for England today following his talks with President Truman in Washington yesterday. He will proceed to Israel after discussing the Palestine situation with British and other statesmen in Europe.

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WHITE HOUSE MUM ON BRITISH MOVE TO FORESTALL U.S. LOAN TO ISRAEL; HILLDRING DECLINES POST

WASHINGTON, May 26. (JTA) -- The White House today declined to make any comment on reports inspired by the British Foreign Office which are designed to forestall any possible American loan to Israel.

At the same time, Secretary of State Marshall announced today at his weekly press conference that Maj.-Gen. John H. Hilldring, appointed several weeks ago as Special Assistant to the Secretary of State on Palestine Affairs, will be unable to accept the post for reasons of ill health. Marshall said that he did not know whether the post would be filled by someone else or allowed to lapse.

The Secretary of State said that he knew nothing about a statement made yesterday by President Truman to Dr. Chaim Weizmann with respect to an American loan for Israel. He declined to answer a question as to whether the discussions in London between U.S. Ambassador Lewis Douglas and British Government officials point the way to a joint Anglo-American approach to the Palestine problem and also avoided replying to a question if there is any chance for early settlement of the reported differences between the United States and Britain over Palestine.

Secretary Marshall was asked about the attitude of this government to Britain's reported intention of continuing aid to Arab countries. He said that he could not comment on this question until the State Department has had time to study the report received from the U.S. Embassy in London. He emphasized that the U.S. Government is still waiting for a decision by the U.N. Security Council before revealing its intentions regarding the lifting of the arms embargo.

At a press conference today, President Truman's press secretary Charles G. Ross was asked whether the President or the State Department has received any formal "representations" from the British Government objecting to the granting of an American loan to Israel. He said he knew of no such representations, adding that Dr. Chaim Weizmann presented an accurate picture of the loan talks at his press conference here yesterday.

Irritation is felt in certain circles here over the fact that the Foreign Office termed as "ill-timed" the Truman-Weizmann talks of a \$100,000,000 U.S. loan and also at the Foreign Office's emphasis that Britain views "with alarm" the news that President Truman is ready to approve such a loan for the Jewish state.

BILL TO GRANT \$100,000,000 LOAN TO ISRAEL INTRODUCED IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, May 26. (JTA) -- Rep. Jacob K. Javits of New York today introduced a bill in the House to authorize a loan of \$100,000,000 to provide military supplies and technical assistance for Israel "to preserve and maintain Israel's independence."

The bill provides for the assignment of technical and military personnel, permits American arms to be shipped on a lend-lease basis, and provides for American ships to carry them to Palestine. It also contemplates that a U.S. military mission would operate in Israel as it does in Greece.

Treasury Secretary John Snyder told a press conference today that if there is to be a loan to Israel the application would have to be reviewed and passed upon by the National Advisory Council which supervises all foreign lending programs. He said the N.A.C. had neither received an application for such a loan nor given any study to the possibility of one.

BEVIN TELLS PARLIAMENT BRITISH OFFICERS WILL SERVE WITH ARAB LEGION IN PALESTINE WAR

LONDON, May 26. (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin told Commons today that British officers serving with the Arab Legion in the Palestine war would be withdrawn only if Britain's fulfillment of treaty obligations with Transjordan became inconsistent with its obligations to the United Nations.

Asserting that he was trying to pursue a policy of bringing an end to hostilities in Palestine, Bevin stressed that he would not be drawn into a controversy on Palestine at this stage. He denied that British officers fighting with the Transjordan Legion had participated in the artillery bombardment of Jerusalem.

Replying to a question by Sidney Silverman, M.P., whether "it is fitting that a force paid for by British money and wearing uniforms and carrying equipment provided by us should be engaged in shelling the Holy Places," Bevin said: "The British will do what they can conceive to be right and will report to this House." The Foreign Minister remarked that one of the difficulties in Jerusalem was "the breaking of the truce by the Jews."

William Gallacher, Communist M.P., who repeatedly accused Bevin of responsibility for what "is now taking place," asked him: "In view of the fact that our treaty with Transjordan lays it down that no warlike action would be taken without consultation, is the Foreign Secretary not actually responsible for all that is taking place at the present time?" Bevin did not reply to Gallacher.

Meanwhile, a Foreign Office spokesman confirmed today that the British military commander in Palestine has ordered the closing of Haifa port to all immigrants in view of "possible interference with the British evacuation." He also confirmed reports that France has been asked by Britain to take no steps regarding Palestine while the truce talks are continuing.

Former Palestine High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham denied today that the British "deliberately introduced chaos" into Palestine before the mandate's termination. "I am convinced that in the future the manner of our going and of our whole conduct over 25 years will be looked upon as something to admire," he told a press conference.

SENATE CONTINUES DEBATE ON BILL TO ADMIT 100,000 DP'S TO U.S.; VOTE EXPECTED SATURDAY

WASHINGTON, May 26. (JTA) -- The Senate today continued debate on the Wiley-Revercomb Bill to admit 100,000 displaced persons to the United States within two years, but earlier hopes for swift action on the bill began to fade because of the piling up of additional urgent bills for consideration and the little time left before the summer recess. Nevertheless, sponsors of the bill indicated a vote on it might be achieved by Saturday at the latest, including action on 17 amendments now pending to it.

Sen. Alexander Wiley, sponsor of the bill, opened discussion today by tracing its legislative background. He pointed out that the bill does not controvert existing laws reserving United States soil for "homesteading" Americans. Sen. Alexander Smith, who yesterday appealed for prompt passage of the bill "to reassure the faith of free men in the United States," spoke again today in favor of amendments raising the two-year DP quota to 200,000.

Sen. Kenneth Wherry, Senate majority leader, late today appealed to the upper chamber on its adjournment for the day "to get to work on the DP bill first thing tomorrow, vote on it and get all the amendments and the bill itself cleared up by tomorrow night." Wherry's appeal was made after consultation with Republican leaders Taft and Ferguson evidently had their approval for a prompt decision on the bill.

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ANTI-JEWISH INCIDENTS REPORTED IN MOROCCO; AUTHORITIES TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

PARIS, May 26. (JTA) -- "Minor agitation" is taking place against Jews living in Morocco and although the incidents are described as "not serious" Moroccan authorities are taking preventative measures, it was revealed here today in a report to the Foreign Office by Gen. S. Juin, Resident-General in Morocco.

Meanwhile, Beirut Radio, monitored here, reported that four demonstrators, all of whom were members of the Shiit sect, were shot and killed by Lebanese police yesterday for urging the population of Teybe, in the southern part of the country, to riot against Lebanese Jews.

MOVEMENT OF JEWISH DP'S IN AUSTRIA TO ISRAEL BEGINS; VOLUNTEERS GETTING HAGANAH TRAINING

VIENNA, May 26. (JTA) -- Displaced Jews in Austria have begun to leave this country en route to Israel, notwithstanding the fighting in Palestine and the difficulties of obtaining legal immigration facilities to the Jewish state.

The Israel-bound immigrants, moving in small groups, coupled with the movement of Jews in Austria to the West, have reduced the total number of displaced Jews in Vienna to 2,500--an all-time low. Although the number of Jews arriving here from the Balkan countries continues to remain at approximately 100 weekly, this does not to any considerable extent increase the number of Jewish refugees in Vienna.

Meanwhile, reliable reports circulating here state that more than 1,000 Jewish volunteers of military age have already left the DP camps in Austria on their way to French and Italian ports of embarkation. Although Haganah is hampered by its technically "illegal" status, Haganah recruiting officers are assembling volunteers in groups of 30 and 50 and giving them basic military training. Guards and police officials at all Jewish DP camps in Austria are gradually being replaced by older segments of the camps' population.

Although the Israeli state has not yet been recognized officially by the Austrian Government, the Jewish Agency has opened an office in Salzburg in order to speed up the registration of displaced Jews wishing to emigrate to Israel. This was done in connection with a Jewish Agency mobilization order issued at the Agency's headquarters in Munich promising to transfer Haganah volunteers from Germany and Austria to Israel within one month after registration. The mobilization order for Austria at present affects only the U.S. zone.

2,500 DP VOLUNTEERS IN U.S. ZONE HAVE LEFT GERMANY FOR ISRAEL; SOME NON-JEWS AMONG THEM

MUNICH, May 26. (JTA) -- Approximately 2,500 displaced Jews of military age in the U.S. zone of Germany have already left for Israel to join the Israeli fighting forces, it was reliably reported here today. The volunteers have slipped out of Germany without any official exit permits or visas. A number of non-Jewish volunteers have also left for Israel to fight against the Arabs, it was reported here.

200 JEWS IN SHANGHAI VOLUNTEER FOR HAGANAH; COMMUNITY RAISES \$125,000 FOR ISRAEL

SHANGHAI, May 26. (JTA) -- Close to 200 Jews in Shanghai have volunteered for immediate service with Haganah, it was announced here today. The volunteers were recruited by a Jewish Agency official who visited the Jewish community here to raise funds for Israel. It is believed that more than \$125,000 was subscribed for the Jewish state.

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CONGRESSMAN SAYS GOLD LOOTED BY NAZIS IS CACHED IN SWISS BANKS; URGES ITS RETURN TO DPs

WASHINGTON, May 26. (JTA) -- Millions of dollars worth of gold the Nazis looted from Europe is still banked in Switzerland and "should be turned over to the victims of World War II," Rep. George Sadowski asserted in a speech to the House of Representatives.

Sadowski said upwards of \$700,000,000 had been looted by the Germans from their victims and then deposited in Swiss banks and the Bank of International Settlements. The B.I.S. has agreed to deliver to the United States, France and England gold valued at \$4,200,000 but the real sum involved is "far larger," Sadowski said.

"The real story of the looted gold shipped to the B.I.S. has not been told," Sadowski stated. "It is about time the Germans contributed something to the recovery of Europe, especially since the gold deposited in Switzerland did not belong to them anyhow. I think the DP's, the refugees and indeed all the victims of German wars of aggression have certainly earned the right to fair treatment," Sadowski declared.

BRITISH EMPIRE BUILDING PICKETED IN NEW YORK; PROTEST BRITAIN'S AID TO ARAB AGGRESSORS

NEW YORK, May 26. (JTA) -- The British Empire Building was picketed here today for six hours by 100 persons protesting British support of the Arab assault of Israel. The picketing was sponsored by Americans for Haganah.

Placards carried by the pickets read: "Mr. Bevin--Stop Arming the Arabs"; "Mr. Bevin, Call Off the Spitfires"; "Stop Supporting the Arab Nazi Legion"; "American Funds Are Not for Guns." Americans for Haganah also urged the United Nations to invoke sanctions against the Arab states and called for the lifting of the U.S. arms embargo.

POLISH GOVERNMENT APPROVES SHIPMENT OF 100,000,000-ZLOTY WORTH OF FOOD TO ISRAEL

WARSAW, May 26. (JTA) -- The Polish Government has approved a proposal submitted to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to convert 100,000,000 zlotys raised in this country for Haganah into foodstuffs for Israel, it was announced here today. The Ministry agreed to a suggestion by the Central Jewish Committee to ship immediately 100,000,000-zloty worth of sugar, eggs, and other food supplies to Israel.

139 JEWISH REFUGEES ARRIVE IN U.S. FROM GERMANY; MET BY REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S.N.A., HIAS

NEW YORK, May 26. (JTA) -- A group of 139 Jewish refugees arrived here today aboard the S.S. Marine Flasher from Germany. They were part of a transport of 500 DP immigrants of various faiths and nationalities. Seventy-two of the DP's were met by the United Service for New Americans and 67 by the HIAS.

B'NAI B'RITH PARLEY URGES U.S. TO GRANT ISRAEL LEND-LEASE; DP IMMIGRATION TO U.S. ASKED

NEW YORK, May 26. (JTA) -- A resolution urging the U.S. to make available immediately to Israel the benefits of lend-lease was adopted here last night at the closing session of the 96th annual convention of the District Grand Lodge No. 1 of B'nei B'rith. More than 2,000 delegates from New York, New England, and Eastern Canada also urged the U.S. to adopt legislation to admit displaced persons of all faiths to this country.