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ARAB ARMIES BEARING DOWN ON TEL AVIV FOR MAJOR BATTLE; LATRUN ENGAGEMENT CONTINUES

TEL AVIV, May 31. (JTA) -- Arab forces appeared today to be preparing for a major assault on Tel Aviv, Israel's civil and military headquarters. Iraqi, Transjordan and Egyptian forces were reported moving into position for an attack from the north, east, eastern and southern approaches to the Jewish metropolis. There was no official confirmation of these reports from Israeli quarters, however.

The battle at Latrun, commanding the strategic highway from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which has been raging for several days with both the Israeli and Arab high commands pouring increasing numbers of men and materiel into the struggle, reached a peak with both sides reporting victories. A late Arab Legion communique claimed that the Hagannah force engaged at Latrun has been routed, but Israeli dispatches said that a Jewish task force had seized and burned the village and police station of Latrun, leaving 150 enemy troops dead before withdrawing. Ten Israelis were listed as killed and 40 wounded.

The censorship of news from Jerusalem and the major fighting fronts prevented correspondents here from dispatching full reports on the results of the battles. Renewed Arab Legion artillery shelling of Jerusalem's new city, where between 90,000 and 100,000 Jews have been cut off from the rest of the country's Jewish population for nearly a month, was reported here. Meanwhile, Premier David Ben Gurion, in a broadcast today to the Jews in Jerusalem, promised them that strong Israeli land and air forces would soon deliver the city. He also urged the besieged Jews to stand fast and "be of good courage."

A raid yesterday by Irgun Zvai Leumi commando units on Ras el Ein, near Petach Tikvah, the source of Jerusalem's water supply, precipitated a fierce counterattack by Iraqi troops who after a 12-hour battle recaptured the town. Iraqi mechanized units were also reported to have occupied Kolm, six miles north of Tel Aviv, while other Iraqi troops, operating out of Tulkarm, carried out hit-and-run raids against the Jewish settlements of Kfar Wnah, Nahalat Shavim and Beit Yitzhak, some 25 miles north of Tel Aviv.

Arab Legionnaires who were successful in bringing about the surrender of the 1,500 beleaguered Jews in the Old City on Friday, today were said to have fanned out to Bar Tuv, west of Jerusalem and some 20 miles from Tel Aviv. At the same time, Egyptian troops engaged in a saw-saw battle with an Israeli unit at Isdud, 23 miles south of the Israel metropolis, issued a communique claiming they routed the Jews, but this, like the other Arab reports, remained unconfirmed here.

An Israeli communique reported last night that a Jewish striking force had penetrated one-and-a-half miles into Lebanon "where Arab units were cleared from Altaroun." Israeli planes also bombed two Lebanese towns near the frontier, while other Jewish columns destroyed two police stations along the Syrian border. Earlier, light Israeli planes were reported to have dropped mortar bombs on Arab concentrations near Ramallah and Nablus.

U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte arrived here today from Haifa and is expected to leave tomorrow morning for a meeting with Arab leaders.

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SECURITY COUNCIL AWAITS ISRAELI AND ARAB REPLIES TO TRUCE APPEAL; DEADLINE TODAY

LAKE SUCCESS, May 31. (JTA) -- The U.N. Security Council will resume meeting here tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 in expectation of a reply from the governments of Israel and six Arab states to a Council resolution calling on them to accept a four-week cease-fire in Palestine during which arms shipments to the Arab states and Israel would be banned, as would the immigration of potential soldiers. The deadline for acceptance or rejection of the resolution is 7 P.M. tomorrow, New York time.

It is expected that the Israeli Cabinet will insist on the road from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem being kept open, as a major condition for acceptance. In U.N. circles it is generally agreed that such a demand is justified.

On the other hand, there is no certainty that the Arabs will accept the U.N. appeal in view of the fact that some members of Arab delegations here indicated late yesterday evening that the world-wide arms embargo provision is unsatisfactory. Additional evidence of the likelihood that the Arabs will remain adamant to all attempts at achieving a truce was seen in the statement in Cairo by Arab League secretary Abdul Rahman Azzam Pasha, after a 90-minute interview with U.N. Palestine mediator Count Folke Bernadotte, that "the Zionists who started this war in Palestine must be left alone to take the punishment they deserve."

ATTLEE DENIES U.S.-BRITISH RIFT ON PALESTINE; ASKS COMMONS "INDULGENCE" FOR BEVIN

LONDON, May 31. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee today denied in Commons that a rift existed between the governments of Britain and the United States on the Palestine question. He also asked Commons to give Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin "its indulgence" for not making a statement on Palestine today in view of the United Nations Security Council's efforts to arrange a cease-fire.

Attlee refused to answer a question by Communist William Gallacher whether in any discussions that take place the British Government would take no action that might be prejudicial to Israel. Under-secretary for Foreign Affairs Christopher Mayhew admitted that the Arabs were making use in Palestine of material supplied them over the years by Britain.

Meanwhile, the question of whether the Jewish detainees still on Cyprus should be classified as fighting personnel in the meaning of the U.N. truce resolution is at present under consideration by the Foreign Office, a spokesman said today, indicating the possibility of a stoppage of the transfer of the Jews to Israel. He said that the food blockade of Jerusalem would be considered a military action forbidden under the terms of the U.N. cease-fire, but he was not willing to so describe the maritime blockade of Palestine.

COMMITTEE OF PROMINENT FRENCHMEN ORGANIZED TO URGE GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL

PARIS, May 31. (JTA) -- A committee of prominent Jews and non-Jews, headed by former Minister Paul Boncour and Catholic leader Marc Sangier, has been formed here to urge the French Government to recognize Israel, it was announced today.

Last night the French Navy ordered a cruiser to proceed to Palestine where it is to protect French citizens and their property. The action was taken following receipt of information that Arabs in Jerusalem have been firing on the French consulate for several days. Yesterday Cardinal Edward Fuhard, Archbishop of Paris, called for prayers for the termination of bloodshed and destruction in Palestine.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WILLING TO TRADE WITH GERMANY, REPRESENTATIVE DECLARES

BERLIN, May 31. (JTA) -- The Provisional Government of Israel is willing to conduct trade with the zones of Germany or a united Germany, Dr. Karl Liebstein, its representative here, declared today.

He pointed out that restitution to Jews victimized by the Hitler regime, made in nearly worthless Reichsmarks, would serve little purpose for those Jews who had managed to escape from Germany to Palestine during the Nazi regime, leaving their property behind. It would, however, be extremely useful, he stated, if this restitution could be made in the form of shipments of much-needed industrial goods to the new state.

Dr. Liebstein revealed that since the creation of the state of Israel there has been a steady stream of applications for admission to the new state from among the members of the handful of Jewish communities still left in Germany. Of the pre-Hitler Jewish population of Germany, estimated at a half million, only about 12,000 survive in postwar Germany, living as part of the German population. These are apart from the thousands officially classified as displaced persons.

AUSTRIAN EX-SERVICEMEN AND DISPLACED PERSONS SEEK ENLISTMENT IN HAGANAH

VIENNA, May 31. (JTA) -- Two hundred Austrian ex-servicemen have applied to the heads of the Jewish DP camps for enlistment in Haganah, it was reported here to day in authoritative circles.

Similar applications were also reported from DP camps in the American zone in Austria. Jewish leaders so far have refused applications from non-Jewish volunteers, pointing out they are getting many requests for enlistment from Jews but are unable to transport the volunteers to Israel due to the lack of transportation. Furthermore, it is forbidden to recruit persons for foreign military service since Austria is still occupied by the Allied powers.

DR. ISRAEL BRODIE ELECTED CHIEF RABBI OF BRITISH EMPIRE; POST VACANT TWO YEARS

LONDON, May 31. (JTA) -- Dr. Israel Brodie, senior Jewish chaplain in the British armed services, was this week-end elected Chief Rabbi of the British Empire. He received the unanimous vote of a special conference of religious and lay leaders of the United Synagogue from all all part of Britain to fill the vacancy in the Chief Rabbi's post left with the death of Dr. Joseph H. Hertz in January, 1946.

Rabbi Brodie, a native of England, served as spiritual leader of the Hebrew Congregation of Melbourne, Australia, from 1922 to 1937. He also served as a chaplain in both world wars and saw service at Dunkirk. The Chief Rabbi's post was filled on an emergency basis by Acting Chief Rabbi Harris M. Lazarus since 1946.

In a statement issued immediately after his election, Rabbi Brodie declared that he believed that the Jewish state in Israel will serve not only the best interests of the Israelis and all Jews who seek to settle there, but will also serve as a spiritual center for the rest of Jewry. He also expressed the hope that Britain will recognize the Provisional Government of Israel.

URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT URGES ALL NATIONS TO AID JEWISH STATE; SENDS GREETINGS TO ISRAEL

MONTEVIDEO, May 31. (JTA) -- A resolution urging the governments of the world to come to the aid of the state of Israel was adopted here today by the Uruguayan parliament by a vote of 40 to two.

The resolution also greeted the new Jewish state and drew attention to the fact that the Uruguayan Government has consistently supported the establishment of Israel. The resolution termed the creation of the Jewish state "an essential act of international law."

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JEWISH HEROES OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION HONORED AT MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, May 31. (JTA) -- Jewish patriots who fought with Colonial troops in the American Revolutionary War were honored here yesterday in Memorial Day ceremonies at the New Bowers Cemetery of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue. The historic cemetery was established in 1682.

Dr. Mordecai M. Eliash, a member of Israel's delegation to the United Nations, who addressed a group of descendants of the Colonial patriots, declared that today "our soldiers in Palestine are fighting just as the Americans fought for freedom. One day they will appear as an example of devotion and sacrifice similar to the men at Valley Forge." Dr. Eliash placed U.S. and Israeli flags over one of the graves. Rabbi David de Sola Pool officiated at the memorial exercises for the 21st successive year.

In a message to the 53rd annual Memorial Day services of the Jewish War Veterans, President Truman declared that "your organization has devoted itself to perpetuation of the traditions of national service left with us by Americans of Jewish faith who, with Americans of every other religious belief and national origin, have fallen in combat in all wars of our nation since the War of Independence."

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE CONFERS HONORARY DEGREES ON FIVE LEADERS; 12 GRADUATES ORDAINED

CINCINNATI, May 31. (JTA) -- Hebrew Union College this week-end conferred honorary degrees on five American Jewish and non-Jewish leaders. They are: Dr. William F. Albright, of Baltimore, internationally renowned orientalist and Semitic scholar; Maurice Jacobs, of Philadelphia, executive vice-president of the Jewish Publication Society of America; Rabbi Abraham J. Klausner, who helped to establish the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in Germany in 1945; Dr. Joshua Loth Liebman, of Boston, author of "Peace of Mind," and Charles P. Taft, of Cincinnati, president of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

Twelve College graduates were also ordained as rabbis during week-end commencement exercises. Dr. Nelson Glusack, president of H.U.C., conferred the degrees.

NEW YORK RADIO STATION DEVOTES ENTIRE BROADCAST DAY TO "SALUTE TO ISRAEL" PROGRAMS

NEW YORK, May 31. (JTA) -- Radio station WLIB yesterday devoted its entire broadcast day to a "Salute to Israel" program series which included a reading of the Israel Declaration of Independence, talks by Sen. Irving M. Ives, Rep. Emanuel Celler, Major Aubrey S. Eban, Israeli representative at the United Nations, Prof. Albert Einstein and others. Haganah and other Israeli songs recorded last week in the Jewish state and received here by air a few days ago were also heard.

U.S. URGED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN TO "MAINTAIN ITS COURSE" IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, May 31. (JTA) -- Mrs. Joseph M. Welt, president of the National Council of Jewish Women, in a letter made public over the week-end, has called on President Truman, Secretary of State George C. Marshall and U.N. delegate Warren Austin to "maintain the course the United States had charted by its forthright leadership" in bringing about the U.N. Palestine partition decision last November and by its recognition of Israel.

M. MALDIN FERTIG ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF AMERICAN ORT FEDERATION

NEW YORK, May 31. (JTA) -- M. Maldin Fertig, New York lawyer and leader in civic and Jewish community affairs, was elected chairman of the executive committee of the American ORT Federation at a recent special session of the national board of directors, it was learned here today.

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