

Wednesday, June 16, 1948

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

186 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

SOVIET BID FOR PARTICIPATION IN PALESTINE TRUCE SUPERVISION REJECTED BY UNITED NATIONS

LAKE SUCCESS, June 15. (JTA) -- The Soviet bid to send five Russian officers to Palestine as members of Count Folke Bernadotte's truce staff was overwhelmingly rejected in the Security Council today.

The formal resolution, introduced by Soviet delegate Andrei Gromyko, called for the authorization of 30 to 50 additional military observers to be sent by member nations of the Security Council apart from Syria. It was virtually ignored by the western powers as only the Soviet and Ukrainian delegations voted for it while the other nine members abstained.

At the same time, it was learned here that Count Bernadotte is approaching the governments of France, Belgium and the United States -- which have already supplied 21 military observers each -- to send ten more officers apiece.

Israeli Envoy Accepts Modified Proposal on Immigration Control

Earlier, the Council heard Aubrey S. Eban, the Israeli representative, accept Bernadotte's suggestion for immigration control providing the controls are those explicitly authorized in the mediator's interpretation of the cease-fire resolution which formed the basis of the truce now in effect.

Bernadotte's immigration control scheme was watered down today at the suggestion of Secretary-General Trygve Lie. As revised, the mediator's message asked all member states of the United Nations to report on the steps they had taken to help implement the cease-fire resolution and called to their attention the immigration provisions of the truce agreement, requesting that they extend "cooperation and assistance" in carrying out truce plans. The request is also being sent to non-member states such as Italy, Albania and Rumania.

Eban also accepted Bernadotte's request that all complaints about the truce implementation should be routed through the mediator's office. He acceded after Gromyko had wrung from the president, Fares al Khouri of Syria, a ruling that if any of the parties wish to approach the Council directly, that avenue would be open.

El Khouri told the Council that before the session today he had advised the mediator, on his own initiative, to proceed as Bernadotte had suggested in routing all complaints. Gromyko won the point, however, that "whenever they deem it appropriate" the Jews and Arabs can appeal to the Council directly.

In a statement issued by the Israeli delegation, the continued presence of British officers in the army of King Abdullah of Transjordan was attacked. The statement pointed out that "public opinion has been given the impression that British officers have been withdrawn from the Arab Legion and returned to Amman." It challenged Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin to explain the presence of such officers as Brigadier Mordechai Lach, now revealed to be the Legion's commander in Jerusalem.

6/16/48

U.S. MAY SEND TEN MORE MILITARY OBSERVERS TO PALESTINE; REQUESTED BY U.N. MEDIATOR

WASHINGTON, June 15. (JTA)--The State Department is considering a request from U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte to assign ten additional U.S. military observers to him for use in keeping the truce in the Holy Land, the State Department disclosed today. A formal request to this effect was received from Bernadotte on Saturday, it was revealed.

Earlier, the U.N. mediator requested that the U.S. send three light aircraft and three small naval vessels to assist him in truce work. Three Beechcraft planes have already been made available to Bernadotte by the U.S. No final agreement has yet been made on the ships, a spokesman for the State Department said today. The Department is waiting for a reply from Bernadotte as to what kind of vessels would be best suited for his needs.

The State Department knows nothing about a report from London quoting a British Foreign Office spokesman as saying that the U.S. and Britain had reached a "tacit understanding" to consult each other on decisions either might make concerning Middle Eastern policy, it was officially stated.

U.N. TRUCE COMMISSION WORKING OUT DETAILS OF SUPPLYING JERUSALEM POPULATION WITH FOOD

JERUSALEM June 15. (JTA)--The United Nations Truce Commission met in almost continuous session throughout the day working out the details of supplying the civilian population and guarding against future violations of the cease-fire by either side.

Late last night the Commission established a convoy checkpoint at Bab el Wad, 15 miles west of Jerusalem. The checkpoint was set up when the Jews, who had earlier refused to permit such a station except on this city's outskirts, yielded to a Commission threat to declare them in violation of the terms of the truce agreement. A control station will shortly be established at the Allenby Bridge across the Jordan River to prevent arms from arriving from Transjordan.

(In Cairo today, where he went to consult with Arab League leaders, U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte commented that the question of supplies for Jerusalem "will be ironed out" by the Truce Commission and the interested parties. "All supplies for the Jews in Jerusalem--food, water, electricity, etcetera--will be subject to fixed quotas under strict control of observers. This will apply to supplies going in by the old or new routes," he stated.)

The members of the Truce Commission are badly overworked and have divided the work among themselves as follows: The French consul is working on the problem of free access to the Holy Places; the Belgian on the determination of need and the distribution of supplies; and the American on checking convoys and determining the exact lines to be held by the opposing forces.

Last night Bernard Joseph, Israeli representative to the mediator's staff, met with the Commissioners to discuss various problems. He proposed, among other things, that the United Nations assume responsibility for the repair of installations supplying water to both sides in Jerusalem. Thus far his talks with the Commissioners have not been conclusive.

Jewish and Syrian commanders on the Galilee front today met with a Swedish and two American truce observers in the former Jewish village of Mishmar Hayarden, captured by the Arabs after the cease-fire deadline, to straighten out territorial claims arising from post-truce fighting.

6/16/48

SECOLOS REOPEN IN TEL AVIV; ISRAEL-EUROPE AIR SERVICE RESUMES; TWO SETTLEMENTS FOUNDED

TEL AVIV, June 15. (JTA)--All elementary schools and kindergartens re-opened here today after having been closed during the major part of the Arab-Jewish war, following the proclamation of Jewish statehood.

Air service between Haifa and Cyprus and Haifa and Europe was resumed this afternoon. The KLM air route from Holland to Israel will be restored under an Israeli Government license this week. Air mail service between Israel and the Soviet Union will also be resumed this week.

For the first time since the Arab-Israeli war broke out, two Jewish settlements were founded today in the Beisan valley area on land that was formerly owned by the Mandatory Power, but which is now incorporated into the boundaries of the state of Israel. Hashomer Hatzair and Hapoel Hamizrachi settlers established the two settlements.

Hissim Yaacov, a 20-year-old Israeli soldier, who was blinded two weeks ago while fighting on the Latrun front, was reported today to have regained his sight during the singing of "Eli, Eli," in a military hospital ward room. He claimed that during the vocal rendition of the mournful hymn, he experienced a sudden pain in his eyes and then was able to see. Doctors are investigating the cause of the "miracle," which provoked great interest.

ARAB TROOPS WILL BE TRIED FOR TREASON IF THEY FRATERNIZE WITH JEWS DURING TRUCE

TEL AVIV, June 15. (JTA)--Arab soldiers were warned today that they will be tried for treason by military courts if they converse with Israeli troops across the front lines during the truce period. The Ramallah radio station, broadcasting an order from the Arab Legion high command, forbade fraternization with Jewish soldiers.

At the same time, Israeli authorities issued a warning to all Jews to be on the alert for "enemy agents and spies" in Israel. "It is the duty of all citizens to inform the police of all suspicious acts," the warning said.

JEWS IN TURKEY ADVISED NOT TO SUPPORT ISRAEL; GOVERNMENT CLAIMS TO BE NEUTRAL

ISTANBUL, June 15. (JTA)--A hint to Jews in Turkey to avoid expressing any support for Israel at the present time was made today in an editorial published in the semi-official newspaper Ulus.

The article warned that "any action or manifestation which is not backing the government policy with regard to the Palestine question should be considered as contrary to the citizens' duties." It emphasized that the Turkish Government wishes to see justice prevail in Palestine.

NO AUSTRALIAN ARMS OR MUNITIONS BEING SENT TO PALESTINE, DEFENSE MINISTER DECLARES

CANBERRA, June 15. (JTA)--Defense Minister J.J. Dedman declared today that no Australian arms or munitions are being sent to Palestine at present.

Commenting on a report that Palestine Jews suspect that mortars bearing Australian markings were being used against them by Arabs, Dedman stated that the Australian Government had not received official notification of this allegation.

6/16/48

JOINT SENATE-HOUSE CONFERENCE ON DP LEGISLATION MAY PRODUCE UNIFIED BILL TODAY

WASHINGTON, June 15. (JTA)--The joint Senate-House conference on legislation to admit 200,000 DP's to the U.S. within two years will meet this evening and it is expected that a unified version of both chambers' DP bills will be worked out some time tomorrow afternoon.

Meanwhile, in an apparent effort to maintain the restrictive aspects of its legislation, the Senate today named two additional conferees to the joint conference-- Senators Forrest C. Donnell, of Missouri, and James Eastland, of Mississippi. This brings the total number of conferees to 12.

The Senate is now represented in the Conference by Senators Chapman Revercomb, Earley Kilgore and Homer Ferguson, in addition to today's appointees. Revercomb guided the DP bill through the Upper House; Ferguson fought to liberalize it; while Kilgore, who voted for most of Ferguson's amendments, called the Senate measure "not good, but better than nothing at all."

The House is represented by Congressmen Frank Fellows, author of the House bill; Emanuel Celler, outspoken champion of the "proportional entry" clause; Ed Gossett, arch-enemy of DP legislation, who expressed his praise for the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem on the House floor; Frank L. Chelf, who favored granting immigration priority to German "volks deutsche" over other DP's; Louis E. Graham, E. Wallace Chadwick, and J. Caleb Boggs.

House members today warned their Senate colleagues that they do not intend to surrender the liberal provisions of the House bill. Under the House bill visas would be granted to displaced persons on a proportional basis according to their nationality. Under the Senate version, half of the 200,000 visas would be assigned to refugees from the Baltic countries.

EARLY LIQUIDATION OF JEWISH DP PROBLEM IN AUSTRIA SEEN; TWO-THIRDS WILL GO TO ISRAEL

VIENNA, June 15. (JTA)--Discussions seeking to liquidate entirely the problem of 17,000 Jewish displaced persons in Austria are far advanced among officials of the United States occupation forces and Jewish leaders. Probably half of the DP's will be able to leave for Israel before the end of this year, it was predicted here today.

While at least two-thirds intend to go to Israel ultimately, the rest are waiting for visas for the United States and other countries. If the opportunities become too limited, they will doubtless change their plans to emigrate to the Jewish state.

This information is the judgment of Dr. William Haber, advisor on Jewish affairs to Gen. Lucius D. Clay in Germany and Lt. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes in Austria. He has gone over the problem intensively with Gen. Keyes, United States Ambassador John G. B. Ehardt and leaders of the major Jewish organizations, including the Joint Distribution Committee. He has found a friendly, sympathetic attitude on the part of United States military and political authorities and a desire to give maximum aid in facilitating departure of the DP's from Austria.

Dr. Haber, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, said: "We have reviewed the establishment of necessary procedures and the possibility of issuing all appropriate documents so that Jews intending to go to Israel can leave officially and take their belongings instead of traveling over unofficial and inconvenient routes to Italy and other ports."

6/16/48

TRIAL OF 57 RUMANIANS CHARGED WITH MURDERING 14,000 JASSY JEWS OPENS IN BUCHAREST

BUCHAREST, June 15. (JTA)--The trial of 57 Rumanian officers, civil officials and civilians charged with participating in, or being responsible for, the Jassy massacre of 1941 in which 14,000 Jews lost their lives opened here today before the five-man Bucharest Court of Appeals. Of the 151 persons originally charged with participation or responsibility for the pogrom, only 57 have been indicted this time and only 31 defendants were in the dock when the trial opened.

The formal charge is "having exterminated members of the civilian population out of racial intolerance." The most severe punishment for the offense is life imprisonment, since Rumania recently abolished capital punishment. Three prosecutors have been assigned to handle the case which is expected to take more than a week to present. Some 200 witnesses are scheduled to be heard. The Bucharest bar has already assigned 25 lawyers to defend the 57, and others will soon be assigned to the case.

The first day's proceedings were almost exclusively devoted to a reading of the 15,000-word indictment. The indictment relates many of the horrible scenes of the massacre seven years ago and the deportation of the survivors in two trains. During the several-days-long journeys of the prison trains 2,500 Jews perished because of lack of air, food and water.

Military Leaders Among Major Defendants; Charged With Aiding Pogrom

Chief defendant is General Gheorghe Stavrescu, commander of the Fourth Infantry Division, whose troops were used to round up Jewish men in Jassy and herd them to the police station where they were later shot. Although he was present in the town during the massacre, Stavrescu insists that he had nothing to do with the crime and that he can prove that he saved the lives of several Jews. The prosecution also has established that he ordered the deportation of the town's Jewish population on the two death trains. He asserts that he ordered the "evacuation" to save the lives of the Jews, because the commander of the German troops in the town had threatened to kill all Jews who remained.

Another of the major defendants is Col. Constantu Lupu, military commander of Jassy on the day the massacre occurred. The indictment charges that he had all the necessary forces at his command to maintain law and order in the town that day, but did not intervene despite the fact that it was his responsibility. Col. Dumitru Caparu, prefect of the Jassy district, is being tried for organizing the deportation of the survivors of the pogrom.

Lt. Col. Constantin Ionescu-Mikandru, chief of the Rumanian liaison section between the German and Rumanian intelligence staffs, is charged with having planned the pogrom when he and his German counterpart, Major Alexander Hermann von Stransky, visited the town just prior to the German invasion of the Soviet Union. Lt. Col. Duminiu Marinescu, who was captain of the railway guards at the town of Targu-Frumos, is charged with having caused the death of 700 of the deported Jews by refusing to permit them to leave the train at Targu-Frumos and forcing them to continue on their journey. This, despite the fact that he had already received an order from Vice-Premier Mihai Antonescu to permit the Jews to leave their box-car prisons.

Other defendants include Lt. Aurel Triandaf, commander of one of the death trains, who is charged with torturing his prisoners; Ion Botez, a police officer at Targu-Frumos, who robbed the bodies of 650 Jews unloaded from the trains at that town; and Adrian Pascu and Ion Francois Boetz, editors of the Jassy newspaper, who promoted a pogrom spirit in the town by their articles. Also being tried at the same time is Col. Emil Mateias, commander of the 65th Infantry Regiment, whose troops massacred 311 Jews from the town of Sculeni. Although this was a separate incident Mateias has been included in the general indictment.

6/16/48

U.S. AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT ALLOCATES 6,000 TONS OF WHEAT TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, June 15. (JTA)--The Department of Agriculture has allocated 6,000 tons of flour for Israel, a Department spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Under the Department's export program all shipments of short-supply grain are allocated to countries submitting applications on the basis of need. The United Kingdom formerly supplied the Middle East area with grain, the spokesman said.

The maritime unions have given assurances that even if a maritime strike is called the shipment of wheat to Israel will depart on schedule as an indication of unity between the American workers and the new state.

ORT TO ESTABLISH 12 NEW SCHOOLS IN RUMANIA; LEADER CONFERS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

BUCHAREST, June 15. (JTA)--Twelve new ORT vocational retraining schools will be established soon in Bucharest, Timisoara, Arad, Bacau and Jassy with an enrollment potential of 3,500 students, it was announced here today by Dr. Aron Syngalowski, chairman of the ORT world executive.

The schools will offer courses in the metallurgic, textile, glass and oil drilling trades, he said. Dr. Syngalowski conferred on the problems facing the ORT in Rumania with Gheorghe Vasilichi, Education Minister, and Lothar Radaceanu, Labor Minister. He also recently addressed a country-wide conference of ORT teachers.

HEALTHIEST WAY TO REHABILITATE EUROPEAN JEWS IS TO MAKE THEM SELF-SUFFICIENT, LEHMAN SAY

NEW YORK, June 15. (JTA)--Reconstruction aid aimed at economic independence and self-support is the "healthiest way" to rehabilitate Europe's 1,500,000 Jewish survivors, whether they remain on the Continent or resettle in Israel, the U.S. or elsewhere, former Gov. Herbert H. Lehman today told 150 Jewish community leaders at the third annual meeting of the Joint Distribution Committee's North East Region at the Hotel Commodore. The meeting was held jointly with the J.D.C. executive Committee.

While primary aid is directed currently to "the hungry, the sick and the children," Mr. Lehman, who is J.D.C. vice-chairman and a leading member of its Reconstruction Committee, reported the agency hopes to increase the scope of its reconstructive measures. This, he added, depends upon the support of the American Jewish Community.

Maurice Goldwater, attorney and chairman of the J.D.C. Reconstruction Committee, announced that the organization in 1947 spent more than \$6,500,000 for reconstruction aid "designed to benefit the largest number of Jews in need without regard to political or sect affiliations." In the past year, he reported, J.D.C.-supported reconstruction operations enabled a minimum of 190,000 Jews, including dependents, to achieve full or partial self-support.

NEW YORK CITY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO COL. DAVID MARCUS, MAYOR O'DWYER ANNOUNCES

NEW YORK, June 15. (JTA)--New York City is preparing to pay tribute to the memory of the late Col. David Marcus, supreme Haganah commander on the Jerusalem front, who died from a stray Arab bullet several hours before the Palestine truce became effective. "The city will do its utmost to express its regrets for a former city official and a great citizen," an announcement today by Mayor William O'Dwyer said.

THE CONTENTS OF THIS BULLETIN ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION