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## ARAB-JEWISH PEACE TALKS WILL START NEXT WEEK IN RHODES, U.N. MEDIATOR ANNOUNCES

LAKE SUCCESS, June 16. (JTA) -- After an all-day conference in Cairo with the political committee of the Arab League, Count Folke Bernadotte, U.N. mediator for Palestine, informed the Secretariat here that the work of mediation and negotiation between Arabs and Jews will begin next week on the Greek island of Rhodes.

To facilitate the task of maintaining liaison and negotiating for the seven Arab countries, the League has established a sub-committee of four, which consists of the Prime Ministers of Egypt, Transjordan, and Lebanon in addition to Abdül Rahman Azzam Pasha, secretary-general of the League. Bernadotte also announced that a group of four subordinate Arab officials--two of them Palestinians--would go to Rhodes with the mediation staff. He added that a similar group would be sent by the Provisional Government of Israel.

The Trusteeship Council today rejected a Soviet proposal for implementation of the part of the U.N. partition decision which calls for a United Nations trusteeship over the city of Jerusalem. After a two-hour battle in which members of the Council generally refused to place the Jerusalem question on the agenda, the Council adopted a French substitute for the Soviet resolution, to include the question of Jerusalem trusteeship on the order of business. The Soviet resolution would have struck a blow against the Arab Legion's occupation of the Old City of Jerusalem.

During the debate, the representatives of France, Britain and the United States advocated that the Council avoid any action which may upset Bernadotte's current negotiations. The British representative John Fletcher-Cooke interpreted the decision of the last General Assembly as a suspension of partition. Soviet delegate Sergey K. Tsarapkin insisted that the Council could not "by pass" the partition decision.

## Britain Charged with Violating U.N. Embargo by Supplying Arabs with Oil

TEL AVIV, June 16. (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Office today charged that Britain was violating the United Nations cease-fire in Palestine by shipping crude oil from Haifa tanks to Tripoli for refining and eventual use by the Arab armies. At the time of the adoption of the cease-fire resolution by the Security Council, Britain agreed that her military supplies and stockpiles in the Arab countries would come under the four-week U.N. embargo.

The spokesman, a senior official in the Foreign Office, pointed out that the British closed down the Haifa Bay refineries in order to keep petroleum products out of the hands of the Jews. He asserted that the Israel Government refused to recognize anyone's extraterritorial rights within its precincts, although any concessions granted by the Mandatory would be honored, in accordance with the U.N. partition resolution.

## ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AWAITS INVITATION TO RHODES PARLEY; ARABS REFUSE TO MEET WITH JEWS

TEL AVIV, June 16. (JTA) -- The Government of Israel has not yet been invited to attend the peace talks which U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte is arranging in Rhodes, it was learned here today from reliable sources.

The Israeli Government does not intend to place before the Rhodes conference any suggestions until and unless it is fully informed on what basis the talks will be held. Even acceptance of the invitation to participate in the talks depends on whether Bernadotte invites Israel as a state.

The Cairo radio today reported that an Arab League spokesman announced that the Arab governments have decided to reject any invitation to sit with Israeli representatives at a round-table conference. Also, that they rejected a proposal by the U.N. mediator that Jerusalem be proclaimed an open city.

At the same time, the broadcast quoted Abdul Rahman Azzam Pasha, Secretary-General of the Arab League, as declaring that "no partition of Palestine and no Jewish state were the basic conditions which Arab leaders today laid before Count Bernadotte" during a conference between the U.N. mediator and representatives of the Arab states in Cairo.

### British Prevented from Handing Over Two Military Camps to Arabs

Following the intervention today by United Nations truce observers, the British military authorities in Haifa reversed their decision, announced yesterday, to hand over two military camps on the Tel Aviv-Haifa highway to the Arabs.

The British agreed to turn over the Tira camp, seven miles south of Haifa, to the U.N. personnel who will post Jewish military guards around the installation as soon as the last British soldier leaves. A second camp in the area, which was occupied by Jewish troops who refused to leave at the order of the British, will also be turned over to the United Nations as soon as the British formally surrender control of it. The same number of Jews who now are in possession of the training center will then be permitted to return. The Israeli Government agreed to these terms.

The Israeli protest last night to the U.N. mediator's staff over the British intentions cited the fact that the truce was supposed to maintain the status quo and that surrender of the camp to the Arabs would give the latter a military advantage within the Jewish state which they never previously had.

The official Israeli radio announced that the British military evacuation through the port of Haifa seems to have picked up speed recently. Fourteen ships are now in the port taking on supplies for Britain and elsewhere.

### BRITISH POSTAL AUTHORITIES READY TO RESUME MAIL EXCHANGES WITH ISRAEL

LONDON, June 16. (JTA) -- The British General Post Office is ready to resume postal exchanges with Palestine, it was learned here today, but it is awaiting approval from the Foreign Office.

The Foreign Office is somewhat hesitant in approving this because it would imply de facto recognition of the state of Israel. It is consequently reported to be awaiting the outcome of negotiations between Israel and the International Postal Union at Geneva.

A report from Tel Aviv says that U.N. representative John Reedman-cabled Secretary-General Trygve Lie that Israel's postal system is functioning well and is able to distribute mail efficiently. The Postmaster General of Israel has been advised

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6/17/48

FOOD RATIONS STILL LOW IN JERUSALEM; NO RED CROSS CONVOYS ENTERED CITY SINCE CEASE-FIRE

JERUSALEM, June 16. (JTA) -- Not a single Red Cross food convoy has entered Jerusalem in the first six days of the cease-fire and Jewish inhabitants of the city have not received an additional ounce of bread or other food above the basic ration instituted during the Arab Legion siege of the city, it was revealed here today.

The Truce Commission today authorized the Israelis to repair the main road from Bab el Wad to Jerusalem and the first food trucks under U.N. supervision are expected to roll into the city tomorrow. Although the actual amount of food to be allotted to the Jewish civilian population of the city has not yet been decided, each truck will be inspected individually and its tonnage will be recorded and charged against the final total amount allotted the Jews.

Since Passover no meat has been distributed publicly and the only kind available has been meat which may have been stored by individual families. The bread ration is less than a half-pound per person daily, while cheese is distributed at the rate of two ounces per person per day and a family is issued about a quarter of a pound of coffee per week. This diet has caused the average Jerusalemite to lose some 22 pounds in the last six weeks.

Up to now the Red Cross has not been prepared to organize and escort food convoys through Arab territory--as provided in U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte's interpretation of the Security Council cease-fire resolution. In addition the recent dispute between the mediator's staff and the Israeli Government on the right of the Jews to bring unlimited food supplies to Jerusalem via the new by-pass of the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway has further delayed the arrival of supplies.

Increased Food Supplies Expected by the End of This Week

Beside the general anxiety over the food situation, the Jewish housewife in Jerusalem asks a practical question--will the six days of increased rations which have been missed so far be made up? However, nobody has yet been able to tell the housewife whether she has irreparably lost six of the precious 28 truce days during which her family was to receive adequate food supplies.

The best that can be done, apparently, was last night's announcement by an Israeli representative that if the present negotiations between the Jews and the Truce Commission continue as they have been going, all major problems may be cleared up within 48 hours and increased food supplies should be available by the week-end. Within the past 24 hours Israeli representatives met with members of the Commission five times.

Among the other problems facing the householder in Jerusalem is the shortage of fuel oil and disrupted power lines. No one has been able to say when fuel oil will be available or whether the power lines can be repaired. Meanwhile, the average Jerusalemite pays ten cents a pound for wet olive wood for cooking fuel and lives in a smoke-filled home.

It was learned here that at tomorrow's initial meeting between Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok and mediator Count Folke Bernadotte the problem of whether to permit unrestricted convoy movements over the Jewish-controlled newly-cut bypass on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road will be discussed. Shertok will restate the Israel Government's position that because the road is completely under Jewish domination it becomes part of the status quo and is not subject to control under the mediator's terms.

The American consulate today advised all Americans in Jerusalem that they must register immediately if they desire to return to the United States. It was emphasized that no one will be forced to return if he does not choose. Safe passage will be arranged for all those who desire to leave.

6/17/48

LABOR DRAFT PROCLAIMED IN ISRAEL; IRGUN ANNOUNCES ITS FOREIGN POLICY PROGRAM

TEL AVIV, June 16. (JTA) -- Israeli Labor Minister Mordechi Bentov today announced a new manpower control act, effective immediately, under which all men over military age but less than 55 years old will be called up for labor in essential services in agriculture and industry. Women up to 50 will be liable to the labor draft. Punishment for violation of the measure will range up to ten years imprisonment and \$10,000 in fines. The legislation is expected to release a large number of men and women now holding down essential jobs to the armed services.

The new Irgun-sponsored political party, Freedom Movement, has announced its foreign policy program. "The Jewish foreign policy's main aim should be to ensure the unity of all parts of the fatherland under one Hebrew rule," the party's statement said. The Israeli policy will be one aimed at ensuring peace because "in a third world war there is danger for Israel."

The statement also called for friendly relations with the U.S.S.R., "which helped Israel in its first difficult stages," and friendship with the "great American people who include millions of Jews who support the Hebrew state." It also urged friendship with all nations, big and small, strong and weak, which look to peace. The Jewish state will maintain good relations with its neighbors; the policy statement asserted, concluding that the general rule for the Hebrew foreign policy should be: Reciprocity of friendship for friendship, help for help and enmity for enmity.

In a special ceremony today 50 Jewish lawyers who recently were sworn in at the bar in the British courts before the end of the Mandate were sworn in as practicing attorneys by the Jewish Law Council.

U.S. DISSATISFIED WITH ARAB REPLIES TO AMERICAN PROTESTS ON BLOCKADE OF PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, June 16. (JTA) -- The United States has notified Egypt and Syria that their replies to U.S. protests against a maritime blockade proclaimed by the two Arab governments over Palestine coastal waters are unsatisfactory and will proceed accordingly, Secretary of State George C. Marshall told a press conference today.

A Department spokesman said immediately after the conference that, while no actual communications have been sent to the two governments by the U.S. in reply to notes received from the Egyptian and Syrian Governments, American diplomatic representatives in both countries have told the Egyptians and Syrians that the U.S. stands firm on its first note. The U.S. informed both governments on May 23 that it would refuse to recognize the blockade.

Secretary Marshall was asked if arrangements which the U.S. has made to have 41 American citizens interned in Lebanon returned on the Marine-Carp meant that the U.S. accepts the Lebanese terms. He replied only that the 41 were to be picked up by the Marine-Carp which is on its way to Haifa and which will stop at Beirut on its return trip to the U.S. He said the American and Lebanese governments are still negotiating the matter.

Asked about a report from London yesterday quoting a British Foreign Office spokesman as saying that the U.S. and Great Britain have arrived at a "tacit agreement" to keep each other informed of impending policy decisions concerning the Middle East, Secretary Marshall replied that that had been the case for some time. Informed that the British spokesman also said that the U.S. did not give prior notice to the British before recognizing Israel, Secretary Marshall added that that may have been the case in that particular instance.

ISRAEL GOVT. NEVER RECEIVED FORMAL NOTICE OF RUSSIAN RECOGNITION, SPOKESMAN SAYS

TEL AVIV, June 16. (JTA) -- The Soviet Union has officially recognized the newly-created state of Israel--but the new government here has never received official notification of this action.

An Israeli government spokesman revealed this tonight in explanation why his government had not yet designated a diplomatic representative to the Kremlin. The U.S.S.R., he said, announced the recognition of Israel and the official announcement duly appeared in the Official Gazette in Moscow, but no formal notification had ever been received here by the Israeli Government.

The spokesman said that a possible reason for the non-receipt of the Russian notification--as well as those of Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia--was interference with the cable lines. Cables to Palestine have to go over the lines of Cable and Wireless Ltd., British-owned communication system. The cable to the Haifa cablehead passes through Egyptian territory.

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE AND JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION MERGE UNDER DR. GLUECK

NEW YORK, June 16. (JTA) -- The consolidation of the Hebrew Union College of Cincinnati and the Jewish Institute of Religion of New York, and the retirement of Dr. Stephen S. Wise from the presidency of the Institute were announced here today. The new institution will be known as the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of the Hebrew Union College, has also been elected president of the Jewish Institute of Religion by the Institute's board, and he will head the combined schools in Cincinnati and New York. Dr. Wise and Dr. Julian Morgenstern, former president of the Hebrew Union College, will be presidents emeriti of the merged institution.

The announcement was made at today's luncheon session of the joint summer institute of the two schools by the board of governors of the College, the board of trustees of the Institute and the executive board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. It reads:

"The Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Institute of Religion resolved to unite for the strengthening and advancement of Judaism in America and throughout the world. The right to serve the Jewish people in its entirety, with freedom for faculty and students alike, is axiomatic."

HOUSE AND SENATE CONFEREES STILL WORKING ON DP BILL; SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT SEEN

WASHINGTON, June 16. (JTA) -- Senator Chapman Revercomb, chairman of the Joint House-Senate Conference Committee on Displaced Persons Legislation, told reporters today that "we are pretty much in agreement" on compromising the House and Senate bills, but declined to specify what agreements have been reached.

Revercomb's group of five Senators and seven Congressmen finished two-and-a-half hours of discussion in a closed meeting on the measure this afternoon. They have slated another meeting for tomorrow afternoon. The Senate bill admitting 200,000 DP's to America over the next two years lacks the House measure's requirement that Jews enter in the same proportion as other national groups, and this is the chief difference that must be ironed out in conference.

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DISPLACED JEWS IN BRITISH ZONE LIVE UNDER DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS, JDC OFFICIAL REPORTS

NEW YORK, June 16. (JTA) -- A statement on conditions of 25,000 displaced Jews in the British zone of Germany was issued here today by Samuel Dalloc on his return to New York after serving eighteen months as director of the Joint Distribution Committee's operations in that zone.

"The British zone," he said, "contains 30,000 Jews buried in mass graves, 8,000 Jews buried alive in mass DP camps where five share a room--the only furniture three or four bunks and a pot-bellied stove. An additional 17,000 have chosen the more independent but equally abnormal life of community dwellers in Hamburg, Cologne, and other German cities.

"But despite the tragic experiences these men and women suffered during the war years and the distorted, unnatural life they have experienced in the three years since liberation, morale today is high," he continued. "The majority are buoyed up by the hope of early immigration to the new state of Israel. Others watch avidly for news of immigration opportunities to the United States and other free lands."

Emphasizing that the camp inmates are doing their best to prepare for immigration, the J.D.C. representative pointed out that some 300 work as carpenters, electricians, tailors and clothing remodellers in three special reconstructive projects established at Bergen-Belsen by the Joint Distribution Committee in cooperation with the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the British zone of Germany. An additional 800 render service as physicians, teachers, policemen, firemen, cooks and sanitation workers. Some 450 are learning new skills in J.D.C.-ORT training schools. All who perform useful tasks receive incentive payments in the form of extra food and amenity items.

FEDERATION OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN SOVIET ZONE OF GERMANY JOINS WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

NEW YORK, June 16. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress today announced that the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Soviet zone of Germany, numbering only 1,500 members, has decided to affiliate with the Congress.

A decision to affiliate itself with the World Jewish Congress was also taken by the Federation of Jewish Communities in Tunisia, the announcement said. The Federation represents some 120,000 Jews in that country.

THREE-DAY CONFERENCE ON RELIGION OPENS IN NEW YORK; WILL DEVISE PLANS FOR U.N. SUPPORT

NEW YORK, June 16. (JTA) -- A three-day Conference on Religion aimed at devising plans for moral and spiritual support of the United Nations opened here today at Town Hall with the participation of representatives of the major religions of the world.

Jewish groups which participated in organizing the conference include the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Synagogue Council of America, the Young Israel Organization, Hadassah, the World Jewish Congress and others. Among the subjects scheduled for discussion are: The moral and religious resources of mankind, religion and human rights and religion as a force for world unity.

1,000 CITIES DONATE 5,373,000 POUNDS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES TO J.D.C. COLLECTION

NEW YORK, June 16. (JTA) -- More than 5,373,000 pounds of canned foods, clothing and other relief supplies were donated to the SOS (Supplies for Overseas Survivors) Collection of the Joint Distribution Committee during the first five months of 1948, it was announced here today. These relief-in-kind contributions, which came from more than 1,000 cities throughout the United States, supplemented supplies purchased and shipped to needy Jews in 16 European countries by the J.D.C.

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