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18 PERSONS KILLED, 43 WOUNDED WHEN HEAVY EXPLOSION RIPS JEWISH QUARTER IN CAIRO

CAIRO, June 20. (JTA) -- Eighteen persons were killed and 43 wounded today when a heavy explosion shook the Jewish quarter here. Eight houses were destroyed in the blast. Police authorities launched an immediate investigation to determine the cause of the explosion.

GROUP OF RABBIS ALLOWED TO ENTER JERUSALEM'S OLD CITY; 200 FOOD TRUCKS EXPECTED DAILY

JERUSALEM, June 20. (JTA) -- Five rabbis who formerly officiated in the Old City here went into the ancient quarter today for the first time since the demolished section's outnumbered Jewish defenders surrendered to Arab Legion forces. They will ascertain the extent of damage inflicted on the Old City's religious sites. Their visit was arranged by a United Nations Truce Commission member and Abdullah el Tel, Arab Legion commander in the Old City.

Meanwhile, a Jewish delegation accompanied by officials of the U.N. Truce Commission, and including Dr. Werner Senator of the Hebrew University and Dr. Eli Derris, acting director of the Hadassah medical program in Palestine, yesterday crossed Arab lines and journeyed up Mount Scopus to inspect the University and the Hadassah Hospital. The party was interested in assessing the damage to the two institutions and in salvaging whatever school and hospital equipment can still be used.

A Jewish spokesman told correspondents here today it is hoped that a daily 200-truck food convoy will now begin to arrive in Jerusalem, following the arrival yesterday of the first convoy bearing 400 tons of food, which were immediately distributed. For the first time in two months, Jerusalem's Jewish residents today had fresh vegetables on their tables.

It is believed here that fuel oil to enable the electric lighting and power plants to resume operations will be brought in shortly. There is no indication as yet, however, as to when water will be pumped up to the city's residents from the River Yarkon reservoir.

According to a statistical analysis published in the Hebrew press today some 500,000 Arabs have fled Palestine since the war broke out, while only about 40,000 remain within the territory of Israel. It is estimated that the Arabs have suffered losses amounting to nearly \$400,000,000 in goods, real property and crops abandoned in their flight.

(President Truman has nominated John J. MacDonald to be the American representative on the Truce Commission in Palestine to replace Thomas C. Wesson, who was killed recently by a sniper's bullet during the fighting, it was reported in Washington today. MacDonald, a 40-year-old career diplomat, has served as U.S. Consul-General in Calcutta and has also held diplomatic posts in China and in the East Indies. At the same time, it was announced that three U.S. destroyers have been made available to U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte. The vessels are now part of the Mediterranean fleet. The 50 U.N. guards assigned to Bernadotte by U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie are expected to arrive in Palestine today.)

6/21/48

U.N. MEDIATOR BEGINS "TECHNICAL" TALKS WITH ARAB AND JEWISH EXPERTS ON RHODES TODAY

RHODES, June 20. (JTA) -- United Nations Palestine mediator Count Folke Bernadotte will begin a series of "technical" talks with small panels of Arab and Jewish representatives tomorrow at his headquarters here in preparation for discussions on a higher level which will lead to a settlement of the Palestine problem.

A senior member of Bernadotte's staff told correspondents here today: "We have not asked the Jews or Arabs for anyone on the political level yet. The talks within the next few days will be technical and in a sense exploratory. Our main concern for the time being is to keep things from freezing."

JWS MUST PREPARE "FOR ANY EMERGENCY DURING TRUCE," BEN GURION WARNS MAPAI PARLEY

TEL AVIV, June 20. (JTA) -- Israeli Premier David Ben Gurion reiterated today that "the enemy may renew attacks--we must prepare for any emergency during the truce." Addressing a conference of Mapai, the Jewish Labor Party, Ben Gurion said: "Our existence and the fate of Israel are now dependent upon our moral and military strength."

"Two main duties at the present time," he stressed, "are to organize Israel's army for a possible struggle and to build up Israel's state. We must fortify as quickly as possible every settlement and form a living, human wall. Our regular army, whose existence is necessitated by modern war, must absorb the best traditions of Haganah and be subjected to one authority--the nation of Israel."

Moshe Shertok, Israeli Foreign Minister, who reviewed the up-to-the-minute military and political developments, emphasized that the achievements won to date in the Jewish nation's struggle for independence "are due to the splendid unity of the Yishuv." Referring to "several surprises" which came about as a result of the Arab-Israeli war, Shertok declared:

"First, we never imagined how insignificant the help of the United Nations would be in implementing its own decision. Second, although we knew well of the White Paper's black record, we never foresaw the extent of Great Britain's hostility to us and the British Government's designs to annihilate young Israel. Third, the whole world was amazed at the complete weakness of the Palestine Arabs, who thought they could uproot a community that was so strong."

Asserting that the Jews warned the United Nations that the Arab states would defy the international body, Shertok said the warning went unheeded. The Mandatory Power, he charged, "opened the gates to Arab invasion, encouraging the Arabs to conquer and partition Palestine among the Arab states. But our stand upset the British-Arab calculations."

"Although we had 700,000 men against 30,000,000, David against Goliath, rifles against cannons, Sten guns against planes and tanks, we conquered more than we lost and, amidst battlefire, established the state of Israel. A quarter of a million Palestine Arabs were uprooted. During the battle, we quadrupled our equipment despite the British blockade. This we owe to our brave youth and the inspired leadership of Ben Gurion."

A dispatch from Haifa said today that the 24-year-old captain of the Jewish immigrant vessel, Pan York, will be tried by a British military court for wilfully disobeying an order of the British military command in Palestine. Lt.-Gen. Gordon A.H. Macmillan, when he refused to aid a British naval captain to board the vessel. Gad Hild, the Pan York's captain, was arrested late yesterday when his vessel docked at Haifa harbor.

COMMISSION TO SUPERVISE ADMISSION OF 205,000 DP'S TO U.S. TO BE NAMED BY TRUMAN

WASHINGTON, June 20. (JTA) -- A three-member commission which will direct the program of admitting 205,000 displaced persons to the United States within the next two years under the terms of the bill passed last night by the Senate--which is unfavorable to the immigration of Jewish refugees to this country--will be appointed by President Truman within a few days, it was reported here today. President Truman is expected to sign the measure tomorrow.

No attempts will be made by groups dissatisfied with the bill to have the President veto it, it was learned here, since Truman indicated yesterday that he will sign the bill, but will issue a statement expressing his dissatisfaction with several of its provisions, which were bitterly assailed in both chambers of Congress, prior to the bill's passage.

A Senate Appropriations sub-committee recommended last night an allocation of \$3,500,000 for the commission for the fiscal year beginning July 1. It is believed here that Ugo Carusi, former Immigration and Naturalization Commissioner, now an expert on DP problems in the State Department, will be appointed head of the commission.

Government sources indicated today that at least 1,800 immigration service workers and investigators will have to be hired for service with American consulates in Europe. These 1,800 would be in addition to special personnel which must be employed to screen the so called "Volksdeutsche" who are to be admitted to this country under the provisions of the Congressional DP bill.

Rep. Celler Estimates Only 6,000 Jews Will Enter U.S. Under Bill

Rep. Emanuel Celler, one of the four Senate-House conferees who refused to sign the compromise measure before it was sent to the House for approval, estimated today that while 27,000 Volksdeutsche--persons of German ethnic origin who lived in countries adjoining Germany before the war and who returned to Germany after the war ended--will be permitted to enter the United States during the next two years, 'only' about 6,000 Jewish refugees will be able to gain entrance during the same period.

During yesterday's debate in the Senate, prior to the measure's adoption by a voice vote, several Senators sharply criticized the bill for its limitation on the number of Jewish and Catholic immigrants who will be allowed to enter the U.S. Senator Claude Pepper charged that the bill, "instead of welcoming DP's, has every obstacle written in to keep them out." However, he and several other critics of the bill in the Senate voiced the hope that "liberalizing amendments" will be added to it when the next session of Congress meets in January, 1949.

Senator J. Howard McGrath, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, charged that the bill discriminated against Jews and Catholics and "wrote principles of narrowness, intolerance and bigotry into the law."

Meanwhile, government sources indicated here that approximately 20 former U.S. Army transports will be placed at the disposal of the International Refugee Organization to bring the refugee immigrants to these shores at the rate of about 10,000 monthly. The vessels will be manned by U.S. Army personnel and will be in full operation by November. The I.R.O. is expected to reimburse the U.S. Government for the displaced persons' passage to the United States at an annual sum of \$18,000,000.

U.N. Body Urges Member States to Admit Jewish Displaced Persons

LAKE SUCCESS, June 20. (JTA) -- An appeal to the 58 member states of the United Nations to admit large numbers of displaced Jews was made here today in a report prepared by a special committee which has just completed a survey of the problem of

resettling DP's. The report, which was prepared in collaboration with the International Refugee Organization, was circulated today by the U.N. Secretariat to all member nations.

Emphasizing that there is very little hope for the resettlement of the displaced Jews anywhere outside of Palestine at this time, the report revealed that during the first nine months of the I.R.O.'s existence, the agency resettled 145,000 refugees, of whom only 21,500 were Jews. The United States admitted 3,280 Jews during that period. At the same time, a total of 1,820 Jews entered Canada, 1,310 went to Latin America, 360 to Australia and 5,800 entered Palestine. The report points out that the total number of resettled Jews is "well below first expectations."

Prepared at the direction of the U.N. General Assembly, the report will be submitted to the meeting of the U.N. Economic and Social Council which will take place next month in Geneva. Commenting on the problems of the displaced Jews, the survey says:

"It would be unfortunate to try and disguise the fact that the prospects for resettlement of Jewish nationals outside of Palestine are very poor at the moment. Recent events in Palestine and the attitudes of certain of the Jewish organizations have no doubt contributed to making a number of governments reluctant to give assent to any mass resettlement of Jews, and without openly declaring that they are unwilling to accept Jewish immigrants, the various nations almost invariably turn down Jews who come before them.

"In many cases, this, of course, may be for practical reasons, as a number of them are not particularly well equipped for strenuous manual and physical labor in coal mines or the factories open to them. But the hard fact remains that, unless governments can be prevailed upon to open their doors, Jewish immigration from the camps and areas outside the camps to countries other than Palestine will be a mere trickle (not even sufficient to offset the number of births in the Jewish camps.)

"It would not be inappropriate if the organization should make a special effort to try to bring home to the large majority of nations which in the General Assembly of the United Nations professed their sympathy for the Jews the desirability of expressing it in action, and not only in words--words that so far have had little appreciable result."

Jewish Leaders Protest Against DP Bill Adopted by Congress

NEW YORK, June 20. (JTA) -- Jewish leaders today continued to assail the bill to admit 205,000 DP's to the U.S. In a statement signed by Henry Epstein, chairman, the National Community Relations Advisory Council described the measure as "a cruel hoax" and an "exclusionist measure."

Former Governor Herbert H. Lehman declared that the bill "retains most of the indefensible discriminatory restrictions of the bill passed last week in the Senate. It is a shock and a disappointment to all those who had hoped that at long last the United States would assume world leadership in the solution of the DP problem."

Addressing a dinner meeting last night of the American Federation for Polish Jews, Samuel F. Reese, newly-elected president, said that Congress has passed a "bill discriminating against Jews."

PROSECUTOR CALLS JASSY POGROM "COLD-BLOODED MURDER;" SURVIVORS DESCRIBE HORRORS

BUCHAREST, June 20. (JTA) -- The Jassy pogrom was not a "spontaneous reprisal against a section of the population which had attacked the German and Rumanian armies, but a cold-blooded, premeditated mass murder," Prosecutor Constantin Balcu declared today at the conclusion of a three-day cross-examination of about 200 witnesses in the trial of 57 Rumanian military and civilian officials charged with responsibility for the massacre of 14,000 Jews in Jassy in 1941, it was reported here over the week-end.

People of all ages and social strata--poverty-stricken, miserable-looking pogrom survivors and ragged old women--came here from Jassy to tell the story of what had happened seven years ago. Some of them pointed to the prisoners dock, recognizing the men who had ordered them deported. Several men, who had miraculously escaped from death trains, told of how 140 persons were packed into freight cars whose maximum capacity was 45, and were kept there for six days without water. Some, they said, went insane because of the hunger, thirst and stench. In some cars, only five of one hundred and forty persons survived.

The Jassy tragedy, police stated, "was committed by the army and police under the auspices of the authorities, with the active help of the population whose anti-Semitic feelings had been whipped up by the press." The maximum penalty for the defendants is life imprisonment, since Rumania recently abolished the death penalty. The defendants, headed by General Cheorghe Stavrescu, commander of the Fourth Rumanian Infantry Division, whose troops participated in the pogrom, have all pleaded not guilty.

340 DISPLACED JEWS IN AUSTRIA LEAVE FOR CANADA; CALL PARLEY OF JEWISH RELIEF CHIEFS

VIENNA, June 20. (JTA) -- A group of 340 Jewish DP's left Austria today for Bremen from where they will proceed to Canada, the Vienna press reported. The refugees will be admitted to Canada as refugee immigrants.

Dr. William Haber, advisor on Jewish affairs to the U.S. commands in Germany and Austria, has called a conference of Jewish relief officials in those countries to be held in Heidelberg tomorrow. The one-day parley will review the two problems uppermost in the minds of the Jewish displaced persons--the Israeli situation and impending legislation to admit displaced persons to the United States.

Meanwhile, the movement of displaced Jews in Austria westwards has reduced the total number of Jewish refugees in the country to 16,000 while the number of Jewish DP's in Vienna is at an all-time low--1,700. One Vienna school which has been used for some time as a displaced persons camp has already been returned to the Austrian Government, while other schools in the U.S. zone are also expected to be returned shortly.

BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS VOTES TO INTENSIFY CIVIC DEFENSE PROGRAM

LONDON, June 20. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews, at a meeting today, voted to intensify its civic defense program in Britain, following a statement yesterday in Parliament by Home Secretary James Chuter Ede in which he refused to introduce legislation at this time to check the growth of anti-Semitic and race hate propaganda. It was reported at today's meeting that only 10 days ago Ede, in a letter to the Board promised that such legislation to outlaw race hate propaganda was under consideration.

Meanwhile, 200 police were called out last night at Romford to protect a group of Mosleyites whose open-air meeting was interrupted by hecklers. Police details were compelled to set up road-blocks to prevent a group of persons trying to break up the anti-Semitic demonstration from reaching the Mosleyites.

INDEPENDENT ORDER BRITH ABRAHAM OPENS THREE-DAY CONVENTION IN ATLANTIC CITY

ATLANTIC CITY, June 20. (JTA) -- Eight hundred delegates, representing 400 lodges of the Independent Order of Brith Abraham assembled here at the group's annual convention, which opened today and will continue through Tuesday.

Joseph R. Apfel, Grand Master, called upon the United Nations to "accept the state of Israel into the family of nations." He also urged the U.N. to "spearhead an international loan of \$500,000,000 to Israel for reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement of thousands of DP's who are still confined in camps and want to go to Palestine to start life anew."

MORE THAN 1,400 DELEGATES ASSEMBLE AT 28TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF MIZRACHI ORGANIZATION

NEW YORK, June 20. (JTA) -- More than 1,400 delegates from 36 states in all sections of the country gathered here today at the 28th national convention of the Mizrahi Organization of America. A special "Salute to Israel" banquet highlighted the convention's opening session. Major Aubrey S. Eban, Israeli representative to the United Nations, and Leon Gellman, president of the organization, were the principal speakers.

The convention's political session, to be held tomorrow, will hear reports by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency executive, Dr. Mordecai Eliash, legal adviser to the Israeli mission at Lake Success, and Rabbi Rolf Gold, chairman of the world Mizrahi executive. The convention will conclude on Tuesday.

B'NAI ZION CONVENTION OPENS IN ATLANTIC CITY; TOP CONTRIBUTION TO J.N.F. REPORTED

ATLANTIC CITY, June 20. (JTA) -- The 39th annual convention of B'nai Zion, which opened here last night and will conclude tomorrow, today heard the chairman of the convention committee, Harry A. Pine, tell the several hundred delegates that "we do not know what the truce will bring, but this we know--no power on earth can destroy the Jewish state."

Dr. Harris J. Levine, chairman of the organization's Israel committee, reported that during the past year \$115,000--a record sum--was raised through the Order for the Jewish National Fund. Members of B'nai Zion, he said, "continued to make the largest per capita contribution to the J.N.F. among all organized Zionists" in the U.S. Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, was scheduled to address the convention at a late evening session.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL, N.C.R.A.C. ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT OPPOSING RELEASED TIME PROGRAM

NEW YORK, June 20. (JTA) -- A joint statement by the Synagogue Council of America and the National Community Relations Advisory Council, issued here over the week-end, declared that the two organizations "consider the New York State system of released time to be inconsistent with the American principle of separation of church and state, and believe that system to have been invalidated by the recent United States Supreme Court decision in the McCollum case."

The statement was issued, it was explained, to dispel any misconception that may have resulted from the action of the Greater New York Coordinating Committee on Released Time for Jews, Protestants and Catholics, in filing a brief upholding the constitutionality of New York State's program of released time for religious instruction. The two groups reaffirm their opposition to the released time program, the statement added, pointing out that the viewpoint of organized Jewish groups is at variance with that of the Coordinating Committee.

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