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CRISIS DEVELOPS IN ISRAELI CABINET; TWO MEMBERS RESIGN; IRGUN GOES UNDERGROUND

TEL AVIV, June 23. (JTA) -- Indications of a split in the Israeli Government were seen here today with the resignation of two members of the Provisional Cabinet, apparently in connection with the battle which took place yesterday between Irgunists and the Israeli Army on the shores of Tel Aviv. The two Cabinet members who resigned are Rabbi Judah Leib Fishman, Minister of Religion, and Moshe Shapiro, Minister of Immigration.

The Irgun announced today its decision to go underground and fight the present Israeli Government which prevented the dissident group from landing ammunition from the Irgun ship, "Vladimir Jabotinsky." The Irgun decision may lead to internal warfare within Israel, since the government is determined not to permit any underground military activities which may violate the U.N. truce.

(The U.N. Secretariat at Lake Success today received a cable from Count Folke Bernadotte, U.N. mediator, reporting that he has ordered a full investigation by United Nations observers in Israel of the clashes at Nathanya and Tel Aviv during the last two days "involving an apparent attempt to unload war materials and possibly personnel offshore contrary to the terms of the truce agreement." The cable added that the Irgun vessel had been spotted by U.N. observers on aerial reconnaissance on Monday, off Nathanya.)

Irgun Leaders Call for the Overthrow of Israeli Government

JERUSALEM, June 23. (JTA) -- A call to overthrow the Israeli Government was issued here today by leaders of the Irgun in Jerusalem following the battle which took place yesterday between Irgun and Israeli military units on the Tel Aviv waterfront when Israeli mortar fire blew up the Irgun ship, "Vladimir Jabotinsky," to prevent the attempted landing of munitions in defiance of the U.N. truce.

One of the Irgun leaders addressed a relatively small crowd from an armored car driven to Zion Square in the center of the city, while others distributed Irgun pamphlets in other areas. The vehicle was surrounded by Irgun guards. No incidents were reported. It is believed that no tension will develop in Jerusalem.

The English-language daily, Palestine Post, referring editorially to the Irgun-Baganah clash on the shores of Tel Aviv, said: "No word can be too strong in condemnation of the dangerously foolish attempt of the Irgun Zvai Leumi to bring in a shipload of arms during the truce period accepted by the Government of Israel; no action by the government can be too drastic in dealing with those who are engaged in a deliberate act of provocation and rebellion. Whatever justification there might have been for the existence of dissident military formations in the struggle against the Mandatory Power, there is none for its continuation in the state of Israel."

Aside from these developments, the city was completely quiet today with more U.N. food supplies coming in, gradually stocking up the previously bare shops and pantries. There is even some hope that by the end of this week the Jerusalem waterfront line stretching from the central train station back to the city center will be open.

TEL AVIV UNDER CURFEW; ISRAELI CABINET CONSIDERS IRGUNIST DISOBEDIENCE; MANY KILLED

TEL AVIV, June 23. (JTA) -- The capital of Israel was under curfew today for the first time since the formation of the Israeli Government as a result of yesterday's bloody clashes between the Israeli Army and Irgun units which led to the killing and wounding of scores of Irgunist and Israeli troops. The curfew was imposed by Israeli authorities "until further notice."

The arrival of U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte to probe into the causes of the battle between the government forces and the Irgunists was expected today. In the meantime, United Nations observers who watched the clash indicated that they are deeply impressed with the government's determination to deal firmly with the Irgunist attempt to break the truce by trying to land arms from the ship, "Vladimir Jabotinsky," on the shores of Tel Aviv, after being prevented from doing so earlier at Kfar Vitkin, near Nathanya.

The Israeli Cabinet was in continuous session today under the chairmanship of Premier David Ben Gurion. The Israeli high command considers the Irgun's action as mutiny. Irgunist forces were still in control today of a part of the northern section of the Tel Aviv beach. Unconditional surrender of the Irgunists was demanded by the majority of the Cabinet members.

Sternists Announce Severance of Connections with Israeli Army

Meanwhile, the Stern Group announced over its radio today that it severed all its connections with the Israeli Army and would not enter into further negotiations with Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok. At a press conference last night, Shertok said that the government was determined not to compromise with the insurgent Irgunists. "The Jewish people are badly in need of arms," he said, "but it is better to see them go up in flames than into the hands of those who are ready to turn them against the state." He insisted that the U.N. truce provisions be honored.

The Irgun rebellion against the Israeli Government followed the surrender a day earlier by the Irgunists to the Israeli Army at Kfar Vitkin where their attempt to land the cargo of war materiel from the "Vladimir Jabotinsky" near Nathanya was checked. Under the surrender terms, the vessel was to be kept in Tel Aviv and placed under control of the army which would decide its disposition without infringing on the terms of the truce.

When the ship reached the Tel Aviv waterfront yesterday afternoon, the Irgun refused to surrender her to government custody and began to land armed men ashore. Other Irgun supporters joined the landed force and shortly afterwards fighting broke out with machineguns and mortars, with the Irgunists entrenched on one side of the Kati Dan hotel, the U.N. headquarters located on the Tel Aviv seashore, and the government military forces on the other. Fighting lasted for several hours during which the ship was set afire by mortar shells directed from the shore by the Israeli Army.

Menachem Beigin, Irgun commander who apparently boarded the vessel at Nathanya, broadcast today that the vessel and its cargo had been purchased at a cost of several million dollars. He said the arms aboard the ship were enough to equip a brigade of 6,000 men, adding that the vessel carried 5,500 English rifles, 300 Bren guns, 4,000,000 rounds of ammunition, anti-tank guns, grenades, aerial bombs, plus other equipment. He declared that he would not push the fight because the Jewish state could not afford a civil war, but demanded the immediate release of all Irgun prisoners.

Pro-Irgun Group in U.S. Blames Israeli Leaders for Battle on Tel Aviv Shores

NEW YORK, June 23. (JTA) -- Emphasizing that a rigid censorship has been imposed by the Israeli Government on news concerning the battle yesterday between the Irgun and Israeli Army forces, the Palestine Resistance-Defense Fund, a pro-Irgun

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group, today issued a statement blaming Premier David Ben Gurion and Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok for the clash.

The statement charged the two Israeli leaders want "to wipe out the Irgun and thus rid themselves of the chief obstacle in the way of totalitarian control," adding that they "tried to choke off Irgun's funds" by a campaign abroad. "Finally, yesterday they got their main chance," the statement declared, pointing out that the number of lives lost in the blowing up of the vessel "Vladimir Jabotinsky" on the Tel Aviv waterfront is not known because "even the telephone service in Tel Aviv was suspended so that the public might not learn too quickly of this outrage."

"The politicians, who have placed narrow party interests above the national safety and the lives of Hebrew people, will be held by the Hebrew people strictly to account. They have launched a civil war in the midst of a crisis which threatens the existence of the whole Hebrew population, not only in Palestine, but wherever they survive in exile," the statement said.

N.Y. Times Urges U.S. Govt. to Halt Funds from This Country to Dissidents

NEW YORK, June 23. (JTA) -- Commenting on the Haganah-Irgun battle in Tel Aviv, the New York Times in an editorial today urged the United States to halt the dispatch of funds from this country to dissident groups in the Jewish state.

"It is difficult to see how the U.S. can escape the duty of establishing a control over funds used in violation of its own international obligations and to the disadvantage and confusion of the new Government of Israel," the paper said.

Goldie Meirson Denies Reports that Irgun Controls Tel Aviv Beach

WASHINGTON, June 23. (JTA) -- Israel is ready for peace but on one condition only--that the boundaries of the state remain intact and that the Israeli Government maintain full sovereignty over all the functions of the state, Mrs. Goldie Meirson told a press conference at the Israeli mission here today.

Referring to clashes between the Army of Israel and the Irgun, which attempted to land a ship loaded with ammunition off Tel Aviv, Mrs. Meirson said "the total Jewish community should be concentrating on efforts to fight attacks from without. We must down these clashes from within." She said she had just been in touch with her government and branded as "fantastic" press reports that the Irgun had taken control of the Tel Aviv beach.

Mrs. Meirson sharply lashed out at the British, charging them with actively inciting the Arabs to press the fight on Israel and furnishing them with supplies. She had no comment on a report that she might be sent to Moscow as Israeli Minister. Sailing when the question was raised, she said she was going home in about 10 days and that she had "no comment on Moscow."

U.S. GOVERNMENT SENDS TEN ADDITIONAL OFFICERS TO PALESTINE AS TRUCE OBSERVERS

WASHINGTON, June 23. (JTA) -- The State Department announced today that the U.S. would send ten additional military observers to Palestine to serve with Count Folke Bernadotte, U.N. mediator, in carrying out the truce.

Twenty-one U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force officers are already in Palestine serving in the same capacity. The ten observers being sent now will include four Army, three Air Force and three Navy officers.

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JEWISH CIRCLES SATISFIED WITH DESIGNATION OF McDONALD AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, June 23. (JTA) -- Jewish circles here today expressed satisfaction over President Truman's announcement late yesterday evening that James G. McDonald has been designated U.S. "special representative" to Israel. At a press conference this morning, Presidential press secretary Charles G. Ross said that the question of an exchange of diplomatic representatives between the United States and Israel had been "in the works for some time," but just came to a head yesterday.

The text of President Truman's announcement reads:

"Agreement has been reached between the Government of the United States and the Provisional Government of Israel on the establishment of a mission of the United States in Israel and a mission of the Provisional Government of Israel in the United States. Agreement also has been reached on the exchange of special representatives.

"Mr. Eliahu Epstein has been designated by the Provisional Government of Israel as its special representative in the United States, heading the mission of the Provisional Government of Israel in this country.

"I have today appointed the Hon. James Grover McDonald, of New York, to serve as the special representative of the United States to head the mission of the United States in Israel."

McDonald, a native of Coldwater, Ohio, was a member of the Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry on Palestine in 1946. For 14 years, he was chairman of the board of the Foreign Policy Association. Between 1933 and 1935, he served as High Commissioner for Jewish and other refugees coming from Germany.

ARABS PROTEST TO REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST PLEDGE TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL

PHILADELPHIA, June 23. (JTA) -- The Republican National Convention today received a message of protest from the Arab Higher Committee taking issue with the platform plank on Palestine adopted by the Resolutions Committee which pledges full recognition of Israel within the boundaries laid down by the U.N. General Assembly. The Arab message urged the convention to drop the pledge from the platform.

John Foster Dulles, Republican foreign policy adviser, played an effective and vigorous role in getting the convention Resolutions Committee to rewrite the drafting group's Palestine plank, it was learned here today. The draft version brought forth by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge merely had extended a non-committal hand of friendship to Israel. In the final night session of the full Resolutions Committee, Dewey forces led by Senator Irving M. Ives succeeded in throwing out the proposed plank and substituting the much stronger language of the present resolution.

New York State Attorney-General Nathaniel L. Goldstein and Roger Straus, prominent leader in Republican circles, took an active role in pushing for a straightforward unequivocal Palestine plank. It is reported here that the final language, which in effect calls for de jure recognition of Israel, was prepared by this group. The New York Attorney-General was very much in evidence during the Resolutions Committee deliberations right up until the release of the final platform.

FRENCH MINISTERS DISCUSS PALESTINE SITUATION; REPORT COMPLIANCE WITH MEDIATOR'S REQUEST

PARIS, June 23. (JTA) -- The Council of Ministers today discussed the Palestine situation with Foreign Minister Georges Bidault. A government spokesman said after the meeting that the French Government has placed at the disposal of U.N. Palestine mediator Count Folke Bernadotte the "material means" requested from France for supervising the truce agreement. Officers of one warship have already left for Israel, he revealed.

MIZRACHI CONVENTION DECIDES TO BUILD HOUSES IN ISRAEL; U.S. JEWS TO INVEST CAPITAL

NEW YORK, June 23. (JTA) -- Resolutions urging Mizrahi branches in the United States to build housing units in the Jewish state for "the expected influx of Jewish refugees from Cyprus and Europe" and to invest capital in the American Eretz Israel Corporation, which extends loans to Orthodox workers in Israel; were adopted here last night at the closing session of the 28th annual convention of the Mizrahi Organization of America.

The convention also resolved to "foster greater Sabbath and traditional observances among Jews in America." Resolutions calling for the holding of regional conferences "for the purpose of outlining plans for strengthening Jewish religious life among the smaller cities unable to support their own spiritual leaders" were also adopted.

Delegates to the parley, representing Mizrahi chapters in 36 states, heard a report that within the past three weeks the Emergency-Food-For-Israel-Campaign of the organization has collected more than 250,000 pounds of kosher foodstuffs, which will be shipped to the Jewish state within a few days. During the past year the Mizrahi organization contributed close to \$500,000 to the Jewish National Fund; it was also reported. Leon Gellman was re-elected president of the organization to serve his 12th term.

Judge Morris Rothenberg, president of the J.N.F., addressing the closing session yesterday, said the establishment of Israel does not necessitate the liquidation of existing Zionist groups. During the next 10 years, he predicted, more than 1,500,000 Jews would enter the Jewish state, making it necessary for the J.N.F. to purchase at least 3,000,000 dunams of additional land for resettlement and colonization programs.

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN PARLEY ASKS TRUMAN TO URGE BRITAIN TO OBSERVE U.N. PARTITION DECISION

FRENCH LICK, Ind., June 23. (JTA) -- The American Christian Palestine Committee, representing thousands of Christian church and lay leaders in the United States, called upon President Truman today "to seek an accord with Great Britain on Palestine policy that will be in consonance with the United Nations decision of Nov. 29, 1947."

Closing its three-day conference, the Committee wired the President last night its commendation for his prompt recognition of the State of Israel. At the same time, it urged him to modify the arms embargo and press for the admission of Israel to the United Nations.

The conference, which was attended by more than 125 outstanding Christian clergymen, educators and civic leaders, simultaneously wired Sir Oliver Frank, British Ambassador to the United States, and Sir Alexander Cadogan, British Delegate to the United Nations, expressing a "sense of outrage" with the British Government for "its open military and moral support" of Arab aggressors. "It is our resolve in our committees to publicize Britain's alliance with the Arabs and its flouting of the United Nations, and to press for safeguards against the use of E.C.A. funds for the war against the State of Israel," the message said.

In their wire to Truman, the delegates reminded him that the government officials responsible for the fight against the partition of Palestine and for the subsequent American reversal on partition last March were still in positions of responsibility. "We believe that retention of these men in office constitutes a threat not only to your own announced policy, but to the security of Israel and to the integrity of America's time-honored pledges for the support of a Jewish national home."

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ALLIANCE ISRAELITE SCHOOLS OPERATING NORMALLY IN MOSLEM COUNTRIES, CASSIN REPORTS

NEW YORK, June 23. (JTA) -- With the exception of two schools for Jewish children which were recently destroyed, all schools maintained by the Alliance Israelite Universelle in Moslem countries are continuing to function normally, Prof. René Cassin, president of the Alliance, declared here today in a statement issued prior to his return to France.

Prof. Cassin, who is Vice-President of the French State Council and a member of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, expressed gratification to the Jews in the United States for the interest they are taking in the work of the Alliance.

COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ASSAILS DP BILL ADOPTED BY CONGRESS AS TRIUMPH FOR BIGOTS

NEW YORK, June 23. (JTA) -- The bill for the admission of 205,000 displaced persons to the United States within the next two years, which Congress passed last week and which is considered unfair to displaced Jews, was assailed today by Mrs. Joseph M. Welt, president of the National Council of Jewish Women, as "representing a triumph for the forces of bigotry in this country."

Terming the legislation "worse than no bill at all," Mrs. Welt stated that it is a "far cry from the earlier Stratton Bill which provided for United States acceptance of a fair share of the displaced persons." She assailed the "cruelly discriminatory and restrictive" provisions of the measure.

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL ASKS REMOVAL OF CITY COLLEGE PROFESSOR ACCUSED OF ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, June 23. (JTA) -- The City Council, by a 16 to zero vote, approved yesterday a recommendation that Prof. William E. Knickerbocker be relieved of his position as chairman of the Romance Languages department of City College because of "reprehensible and unworthy conduct." A sub-committee of the Council found that "the question of his students' religion was a factor in Knickerbocker's mind determining whether or not the student should be trusted or treated like a 'gentleman.'" Four members of the City College faculty had previously ascribed anti-Semitic remarks to him.

INDEPENDENT ORDER BRITH ABRAHAM ENDS CONVENTION; JOSEPH APFEL RE-ELECTED GRAND MASTER

ATLANTIC CITY, June 23. (JTA) -- Joseph Apfel was re-elected Grand Master of the Independent Order Brith Abraham at the organization's 61st annual convention here which concluded last night. More than 800 delegates representing 400 lodges throughout the U.S. attended the meeting.

CHICAGO DINNER RAISES \$2,376,000 FOR UNITED JEWISH APPEAL; LEHMAN ADDRESSES GATHERING

CHICAGO, June 23. (JTA) -- More than \$2,376,000 of the Chicago Combined Jewish Appeal's quota of between \$16,000,000 and \$18,000,000 for the 1948 drive of the United Jewish Appeal was raised or pledged here last night at a dinner attended by more than 500 business and professional men in this city. Among the speakers was former Gov. Herbert H. Lehman.

CAMPAIGN TO AID ISRAEL LAUNCHED IN BRAZIL FOLLOWING ARRIVAL OF ISRAELI EMBASSY

SAO PAULO, June 23. (JTA) -- A campaign to mobilize the support of Brazilian Jewry in behalf of the state of Israel was launched here today following the arrival of Gedalia Zuchowitsky from the Jewish state. The Israeli visitor appealed for a "sacrificial effort" for bolstering the new state.