

Tuesday, June 29, 1948

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
106 EAST 41ST STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

LAST MINUTE NEWS

SHERTOK ADDRESSES MILITARY CEREMONY IN TEL AVIV; WARNS "PEACE IS STILL FAR OFF"

TEL AVIV, June 28. (JTA) -- "The cease-fire is thus far only a pause in the war, the peace is still far off," Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok warned here today, speaking at a huge, colorful ceremony at which Israeli Army troops in this city took an oath of allegiance to the Provisional Government.

Brigadier Michael Ben Gal administered the oath and took the salute from parading units of the army. The 42-year-old general has served in the Jewish defense forces since 1925 and was a major in the British Army during the war. The Palestine Symphony Orchestra, under the lead of American conductor Salomon Sialer, played during the ceremony. Tel Aviv Mayor Israel Rokach was among the civilians who participated in the proceedings. (See earlier report on the swearing-in ceremony on page 1.)

Tuesday, June 29, 1948

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

ISRAELI TROOPS SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO GOVERNMENT; HAGANAH TAKES OATH IN JERUSALEM

TEL AVIV, June 28. (JTA) -- All soldiers in the Defense Army of Israel, including Haganah units in Jerusalem, today took an oath of allegiance to the Provisional Government, following last night's ceremony at which Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, who also holds the portfolio of Defense Minister, administered the oath to 20 top commanders of the army.

As each of the field commanders and members of the general staff stepped forward to swear allegiance, his real name was called out, thus stripping the veil of anonymity from the members of the high command of the Haganah. Previously, they had only been known publicly by aliases assumed to foil British attempts to smash the Haganah. Most of them have served jail sentences--in some cases up to three years--for their Haganah activities.

The oath was administered in a roped-off square in front of the army's closely guarded headquarters. The officers were drawn up at attention before a blue-and-white flag of Israel and each heard the oath, then said: "I swear," as his name was called out. The only top commander absent was Yaacov Dostrowsky, chief of the general staff, who was kept away by illness. In a short address at the end of the ceremony Ben Gurion emphasized that the "devotion, loyalty and strength of your soldiers--men and women alike, on land and sea and air--will bring the victory which will bring redemption to our people in its homeland and prosperity, peace and progress to all of the Middle East."

First officer to be called forward was 34-year-old Yigal Yadin-Sukenik, chief of operations. Sukenik is well known in Israel as an archaeologist and son of Prof. E.L. Sukenik, one of the most famous archaeologists in the Middle East. He was followed by Yigal Alon Peikowitz, a farmer in a communal settlement who commands the Palmach, the army's commando force. He has been on the British "wanted" list for years. Moshe Carmeli, quiet and tall, the commander of the Israeli forces who captured Haifa, took the oath next. After serving in the British army in the last war, Carmeli was imprisoned by them for 18 months for Haganah activities.

Organizer of Palmach Lived Eight Years in Underground

The fourth to swear, and perhaps the most colorful figure in the group, was Itzhak Sadeh, a six-foot tall, bearded man of middle age. A field commander, Sadeh was responsible for the final defeat of Fawzi el Kaukaji's forces at Mishmar Haemek, turning point of the battle for Israel in the days before the Mandate ended. He also fought at Jerusalem, where David Shealtiel commanded the fight in the Old City. Sadeh, a Russian immigrant who served in Kerensky's forces and the Soviet Army as a private until 1922, organized the Palmach during World War II. For the last eight years he has been living underground.

Other commanders who participated in the ceremony were: Uri Jaffe, Eliahu Ben Hur, Dan Even, Yehoshua Kattner, Yosef Avidar, Yehoshkiel Secher, Israel Amir, Michael Ben Gal, Michael Schochen, Mordechai Maklev, Moshe Zakok, Zvi Ayalon, Shalom Eshet, Shlomo Shamir, Shmuel Admon and Shimon Ardan.

6/29/48

U.N. GETS PEACE PROPOSALS WHICH BERNADOTTE SENT TO JEWS AND ARABS; DETAILS KEPT SECRET

LAKE SUCCESS, June 28. (JTA) -- U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie today received from Count Folke Bernadotte, U.N. mediator on Palestine, the text of the peace "suggestions" prepared by him at Rhodes for transmission to the Jews and the Arabs. The suggestions will remain a secret, since all parties involved have been asked by the U.N. mediator to refrain from making them public.

In his report to the U.N. secretariat, Bernadotte said that copies of his peace proposals will be in the hands of the Jews and the Arabs by tomorrow morning. U.N. emissaries carrying the text, he reported, left for Tel Aviv and Cairo simultaneously this morning. The liaison officers of Israel and of the Arab League left Rhodes today together with the U.N. emissaries for their respective capitals.

The U.N. mediator made it clear in his report that his proposals do not constitute a plan for a final peace settlement, but only a basis for further peace talks. He emphasized that he did not know himself at this stage whether he will ask for an extension of the truce.

This is interpreted here as meaning that Bernadotte will be guided in deciding his next step by the nature of the replies he receives from the Arabs and Jews. Should these be favorable, it is regarded here as unlikely that he can effect a final settlement in the remaining few days. Thus an extension would be regarded as inevitable.

Bernadotte reported that he will be in Rhodes for the next few days awaiting the two replies. However, he is ready to go to Cairo and Tel Aviv, if necessary, in order to iron out any differences which may arise over his initial suggestions.

BRITISH RELEASE LAST 12 JEWISH PRISONERS AS THEY PREPARE TO EVACUATE PALESTINE

HAIFA, June 28. (JTA) -- The last 12 Jewish prisoners held by the British military authorities in Palestine were released today, 48 hours before the completion of the British evacuation. They included a number of Sternists whose death sentences had been commuted to life imprisonment.

General Gordon H.A. MacMillan, British military commander, last night revealed that the British lost 198 men killed during the last 12 months and that 419 officers and men were wounded. He declined to comment on the number of troops who deserted to the Arabs.

All armored vehicles which cannot be evacuated will be destroyed, he told newsmen, "so that there should be no danger of their getting into the hands of either party." He gave no figures on the number of vehicles destroyed nor of the quantities of small arms which he said the police had dumped in the sea rather than leave behind. MacMillan added that over 12,000 British troops were evacuated between the termination of the Mandate on May 15 and June 22, leaving less than 5,000 to be withdrawn. He also said that his relations with the Jews since May 15 have been "satisfactory."

41 AMERICAN JEWS TAKEN FROM AMERICAN VESSEL BY LEBANESE EMBARK FOR UNITED STATES

HAIFA, June 28. (JTA) -- The 41 American Jews, who were forcibly removed from the American ship Marine Carp by the Lebanese Government and held in a detention camp since last month, will embark for the United States today, a report received from Beirut said.

EAST-WEST CLASH DEVELOPS AT WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS CONVENTION; GENERAL DEBATE UNDER WAY

MONTREUX, Switzerland, June 28. (JTA) -- A clash between delegates from Eastern and Western countries to the second convention of the World Jewish Congress developed today as the general debate got under way.

The first speaker to follow Dr. Leon Kubowitsky, secretary-general of the Congress, who delivered a lengthy report on the organization's activities since the last convention, was Joseph Mirsky, Communist member of the delegation from the Central Jewish Committee of Poland. In the midst of protests from the delegates, Mirsky accused certain "forces in America" of attempting to "set the world aflame."

He asserted that two major dangers face the Jews today: anti-Semitism which "no longer means pogroms, but annihilation," and the splitting of the world into two parts. After praising the Soviet Union for its efforts in behalf of the creation of the state of Israel, Mirsky insisted that what the Congress must do is decide on a program of action to strengthen Israel, rather than hold an ideological debate on it.

He urged the W.J.C. to become an instrumentality for organizing Jewish forces throughout the world to aid Israel, which, he said, will play an important role in the fight against anti-Semitism. The delegate from Poland also called on the Jews to unite with "non-Jewish democratic, progressive and anti-racist forces" in the campaign to aid Israel.

Mirsky was joined in the debate by Lajos Stoeckler, president of the Central Board of Hungarian Jewish Communities, who stressed that Hungarian Jews owe their survival to the Red Army. Meanwhile, American delegate Rabbi Max Kirschblum of New York warned the convention against working with "progressive elements." "We know what happened after a progressive government succeeded Winston Churchill," he declared.

After a caucus attended by members of the leftist Poale Zion movement from various countries, the party delegation announced a three-point program which it will support at the convention. Firstly, the Poale Zion advocates that the Palestine situation occupy the leading place in convention debates. Secondly, it favors overhauling the constitutional machinery of the Congress and democratizing it. Finally, the party demands that the voting strength of each delegation be based on the comparative strength of its membership within the Congress.

When the general debate ends, the 260 delegates will be divided among four major committees: the political, cultural, reconstruction and administrative. Sidney Silverman, British M.P. and leader of the British section of the Congress, is expected to head the political committee. An invitation was sent to Israeli President Chaim Weizmann to attend the sessions. Dr. Weizmann, who is now in Switzerland, will decide within the next few days whether he will make an appearance at the convention.

27 JEWS HELD AS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS RELEASED IN ARGENTINA ON PRESIDENT PERON'S ORDERS

BUENOS AIRES, June 28. (JTA) -- Twenty-seven Jews, detained here for several months as illegal immigrants, were freed last night on order of President Juan Peron.

The action followed Peron's promise to this effect to a delegation of the DAIA, central representative body of the Jews of Argentina, and the pro-Peronist Israelita Argentina. Some sections of the Jewish press and some circles in the Jewish community believe that Peron's latest act may indicate a change in attitude on the part of the government toward the problem of Jewish immigration.

6/29/48

BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE SAYS QUESTION OF RECOGNIZING ISRAEL "STANDS WHERE IT WAS"

LONDON, June 28. (JTA) -- The question of Britain's extending recognition to Israel "stands where it was," a Foreign Office spokesman said today. He revealed that Israel representative Dr. Nahum Goldmann has met with British officials "informally," but no major problems were discussed.

The government official refused to state in what capacity Dr. Goldmann was received, reiterating that the talks were purely informal and adding that Britain does not recognize any government in Palestine.

U.N., TRUMAN GET CHARGE EGYPT PRESSING WAR PLAN ON ISRAEL WORKED OUT WITH NAZIS

LAKE SUCCESS, June 28. (JTA) -- The charge that King Farouk of Egypt is using a war plan against Israel which was worked out in collaboration with the Nazis during World War II, but never used because Germany could not spare an adequate force, was made here today by the Nation Associates. The charge, backed by a recently-discovered document of the German Foreign Office, was presented today to the United Nations and President Truman.

The plan called for the Germans to level Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in air bombing as part of a complete campaign against Palestine, mapped out by the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, Hitler's wartime Arab advisor. According to the document, Farouk planned to flee to the German lines in 1943 and throw Egypt into the war against the Allies. The German document also states that Farouk ordered Egyptian planes to fly to Field Marshal Ernst von Rommel's African headquarters with important maps.

Freda Kirchwey, president of the Nations Associates, who presented the case to the U.N. and the President, declared that "it is inconceivable that a country like Egypt could effectively challenge the authority of the U.N., if any single big power challenged Egypt." Miss Kirchwey also stressed that the discovery of the German document was particularly important now, when "Egypt has taken a leading role in armed defiance of the U.N. and, moreover, has the dubious distinction of having initiated the bombing of civilian populations in Palestine."

The Nation Associates memorandum pointed out that what the Germans failed to do for the Mufti, he has convinced "his patron, the Egyptian King, to attempt." It adds that the Mufti and Hitler made a pact to exterminate the Jews and agreed that in the event that only one of them survived, "the survivor should undertake to carry out their joint purposes."

OUTCOME OF TRUCE IN PALESTINE DEPENDS ON ENGLAND, DR. SILVER SAYS; RECEIVES AWARD

ATLANTIC CITY, (JTA) -- The truce in Palestine will end in peace or war depending on what Britain decides, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver declared here last night, addressing the convention of the Independent Order Brith Sholom.

The organization presented Dr. Silver with the 1948 Brith Sholom National Annual Award for Humanitarianism, in recognition of his activities in behalf of the independence of Israel. In accepting the award, Dr. Silver emphasized that "the tribute is due the Jewish people as a whole for their amazing capacity for rejuvenation and a will and determination unparalleled in all the annals of mankind."

INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ORGANIZATION ACCEPTS ISRAEL AS MEMBER; VOTE IS UNANIMOUS

OSLO, June 28. (JTA) -- The International Tourist Organization, which is currently meeting here, has accepted Israel as a member, it was announced here today. The motion to accept Israel was accepted unanimously.

6/29/48

DR. BRODIE INDUCTED AS CHIEF RABBI OF BRITAIN; CEREMONY ATTENDED BY DOMINION LEADERS

LONDON, June 28. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie was last night inducted as spiritual leader of the Jews of Britain at a ceremony held in the New Synagogue of North London. The audience included representatives of synagogical bodies from all parts of Britain and the dominions.

MORE PROTESTS VOICED AGAINST THE DP BILL ADOPTED BY CONGRESS; RECTIFICATION URGED

NEW YORK, June 28. (JTA) -- Speaking on behalf of some 200 leading religious, civic, welfare and labor organizations, the Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons has issued a statement condemning the bill adopted by Congress for the admission of 205,000 DP's from Europe. The bill contains provisions greatly reducing the possibility of displaced Jews entering the United States in accordance with their proportion to the total number of refugees in the camps of Germany and Austria.

Declaring that the bill, as adopted, is based on racial and religious bigotry, the statement said: "The discrimination on racial and religious grounds against the victims of the Nazis is all the more shocking when we consider that one of the provisions of this bill actually permits persons of German ethnic origin to immigrate to this country under the regular German quota. This is a clear departure from the basic principles on which our immigration law has rested."

The New York Times in an editorial today calls the bill "niggardly and unfair." It expresses the hope that "both sets of national candidates in the coming Presidential campaign will insist, as Mr. Truman has done, that it be rectified."

59 PERCENT OF WASHINGTON RESIDENTS OPPOSE SENDING ARMS TO ISRAEL; 43 PERCENT OPPOSE LOAN

WASHINGTON, June 28. (JTA) -- Six out of ten Washington residents oppose shipping arms to Israel and nearly half of the district residents would oppose an American loan to the new Jewish state, a Washington Post poll published today reveals.

Asked "are you for or against shipping arms to Israel?" some 59 percent of the District of Columbia residents who were polled replied that they were opposed to shipping arms to the new state. Some 16 percent were in favor of shipping arms to Israel while another five percent would favor it "if they are paid for, if Britain supplies the Arabs." Twenty percent expressed no opinion.

Asked "are you for or against lending money to Israel?" 28 percent said they favored the idea, while 43 percent said they would oppose such a plan. Another seven percent said they would favor a loan if the money were used only for peaceful purposes. Twenty-two percent expressed no opinion.

Of those polled who were willing to express a definite opinion in favor of one side or another 69 percent favored Israel. Some 46 percent of this group said they took the Jewish side because the Jewish people are entitled to a homeland. Another 21 percent maintained that the Jews have a Biblical right to Israel, 11 percent believe the U.N. partition plan should be upheld, and nine percent would give the territory to the Jews because they have done more to develop it than the Arabs.

SOUTH AFRICAN RABBI ARRIVES IN ROME; INSPECTING JEWISH AID ORGANIZATIONS IN EUROPE

ROME, June 28. (JTA) -- Rabbi Moses C. Weiler of South Africa arrived here today after visiting Athens and parts of Italy touring the installations of the CRT, OSE and the Joint Distribution Committee. Rabbi Weiler is en route to London and Paris where he will attend a meeting of the governing body of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, and a meeting of the World CRT Board, respectively.

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