

Friday, July 16, 1948

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

U.S. RESOLUTION TO HALT PALESTINE WAR CERTAIN OF ADOPTION; U.S.S.R. SUPPORT INDICATED

LAKE SUCCESS, July 15. (JTA) -- The adoption of an American resolution calling on the U.S. Security Council to order an immediate cessation of hostilities in Palestine was virtually assured here today when Ukrainian delegate Dmitri Manuilsky, who is also President of the Council, indicated that the U.S.S.R. and the Ukraine will vote for those sections of the resolution which they favor, but will not veto the provisions which they oppose.

At the same time, U.S. delegate Philip C. Jessup, in an attempt to secure prompt approval of the cease-fire proposal, conceded one point to the Russians -- that demilitarization of Jerusalem meant actual withdrawal of all fighting men from the city. While the U.S. still favored internationalizing the city, Jessup said, it did not feel that it was possible to do so on the basis of a Trusteeship Council plan drawn up earlier this year because that plan was predicated on the existence of an independent Palestine Arab state which never came into existence.

As the Council session bogged down in long and involved speeches tonight, Council president Manuilski indicated that he would keep the body in session all night if necessary to carry through adoption of the resolution. (As the Bulletin went to press a vote had not yet been taken.) The morning session featured a long, involved filibuster by Arab delegates.

Toward the end of the morning session Argentinian delegate Jose Arce demanded that the resolution be voted paragraph by paragraph. With the adoption of this procedure, it became possible for the Russian and Ukrainian delegation to back the American bloc on the punitive sections of the resolution, with which they agreed. On the other points, which briefly concern the powers and responsibilities of the mediator, Argentina and China, who were expected to abstain on the other sections, would vote favorably. Thus, the resolution would at all times be assured at least the necessary seven-vote majority.

Manuilski Holds Bernadotte Partially Responsible For Renewal of War

Manuilsky charged mediator Count Folke Bernadotte with partial responsibility for the renewal of hostilities in Palestine. He accused Bernadotte of encouraging Arab intransigence by helping to spread the conviction that the General Assembly decision to partition Palestine was going to be scrapped. This impression stemmed directly from Bernadotte's "suggestions" which violated that Assembly's decision by proceeding to revise the frontiers of Israel without consulting the U.N., the Ukrainian said. Manuilsky also declared that the U.S. proposal for demilitarizing Jerusalem was a veiled attempt to occupy the Holy City by troops of the western powers.

Aubrey S. Eban, the Israeli representative, condemned an Egyptian reference this morning to the need for "firemen" to put out the rebellious Jewish blaze in Palestine. "The idea of Egypt playing the role of international fireman while throwing incendiary bombs over the city of Tel Aviv has passed being an international joke," he

declared. Eban welcomed the United States conception of the demilitarization of Jerusalem, but insisted that this be done "without prejudice" to the ultimate political fate of the city.

Bernadotte, who deferred his departure for Rhodes until Saturday, told the Council that Ole Bakke, one of the 50 security guards sent from Lake Success to Palestine, had been killed by a sniper July 13 while on duty on Mt. Scopus. Canadian General Andrew G.L. McNaughton, paying tribute to the Norwegian volunteer, said the Council must insist that the U.N. flag and its personnel be respected at all times by both sides.

Fear that a powerful Jewish attack would conquer the entire city of Jerusalem within the next few days was expressed by Jean Nieuwenhuys, Belgian chairman of the Truce Commission in Jerusalem, in a message received here today. Another cablegram accused the Jewish garrison of trying to seize the power station of the Jerusalem Electric Corporation. Unlike most official U.N. communications, both cables were marked by an almost hysterical tone, notably absent from pre-truce communications when it was the Arab Legion rather than the Paganah seemed to hold the upper hand in the fighting.

Referring to the kidnapping of five Britons by the Irgun Zvai Leumi on July 6, Nieuwenhuys said the Irgun was trying to collect evidence that the British officials, including the manager of the corporation, had been engaged in espionage for the Arabs. "My colleagues and I believe," he declared, "that even if the charges are substantiated partly, that it may merely be part of a whole scheme carefully planned by the Jews beforehand in order to seize illegally the power station and its assets."

REPORT ISRAELIS IN NAZARETH: JEWISH VILLAGES SHELLED IN SOUTH; EGYPTIANS LOSE 500 MEN

TEL AVIV, July 15. (JTA) -- Israeli forces today entered the outskirts of the city of Nazareth which Fawzi el Kaukaji has turned into a major base for his guerrilla "Liberation Army," it was reported here from the central Galilee front. However, the reports could not be immediately confirmed.

Earlier, official communiques disclosed that Nazareth was encircled from three sides and in imminent danger of being overrun. Last night the Jews pushed forward from captured Shafa Amr, on Nazareth's northwestern perimeter, and captured nearby Iblin. Israeli planes were active on bombing missions in the area and against Arab concentrations in the vicinity of Jenin.

On the southern front the Egyptians today shelled the Jewish villages of Beer Tuvia, Galon and Gat, while the Jews last night seized the Arab stronghold of Beit Saffa. After six days of heavy fighting and intense artillery duels, the Arabs have finally been dispersed from in front of the Jewish strongpoint of Negba, in the Negev. The Egyptians lost at least 500 men and much armor in the campaign.

Tel Aviv, which yesterday received its first night air attack, today had three air alerts but no Arab planes appeared in the skies over the city. The switch to night bombing and the failure of the Egyptian bombers to penetrate the defenses of the city during the last few days, is unofficially explained here as resulting from the increased strength of the Israeli fighter command and the anti-aircraft batteries.

An Israeli Army spokesman said today that "stray Pakistani have been reported fighting with Arab forces in northern Palestine, although there is no evidence that they are fighting together in organized units." He said that to date Israeli troops have not made direct contact with any Pakistani fighters.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES SPECIAL SUPREME WAR COMMITTEE HEADED BY BEN GURION

TEL AVIV, July 15. (JTA) -- A special five-member cabinet war committee was established today by the Provisional Government of Israel.

The group includes Premier and Defense Minister David Ben Gurion and Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan, representing the Labor Party; Interior Minister Itzhak Gruenbaum, a General Zionist; Immigration Minister Moshe Shapiro, of the Mizrachi, and Agriculture Minister Aaron Zisling, of the United Workers Party.

Meanwhile, ten members of the Israeli State Council have asked that the Council convene a special meeting to review the present military situation, but it was learned today that the government is opposed to this move which is supported only by the Mizrachi, Agudah and Revisionist representatives on the Council. A proposal has also been put forward calling for the creation of a foreign affairs committee within the Council.

The Council, which is scheduled to meet in a regular session this evening, will discuss the question of appointing members to Israel's supreme judicial body. Justice Minister Felix Rosenbluth is expected to propose that Moshe Smoira, Menachem Dunkelbaum, Dr. Abraham Weinshal, L. Geitein, R. Elshan, B. Agranat and Rabbi Simcha Assaf be named to the highest bench. Labor members of the Council, however, have expressed opposition to Weinshal's appointment on the grounds that he is a Revisionist. The meeting will also decide on a special flag for the Council and legislation to aid Israeli soldiers' families.

A large quantity of currency notes ordered from the United States months ago arrived in Tel Aviv today and will be put into circulation immediately to serve as auxiliary currency.

Andre Philippe, former French Finance Minister, was received by Premier Ben Gurion this morning and later met with Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok. He told both Israeli officials that he was greatly impressed with what he had seen in the Jewish state and promised that when he returned to France he would work for the support of the new state.

JERUSALEM JEWS APPREHENSIVE NEW TRUCE MAY PRECEDE CAPTURE OF OLD CITY BY ISRAELIS

JERUSALEM, July 15. (JTA) -- The possibility that Israeli military operations may end before the Old City is recaptured -- because of the imminent United Nations truce order from Lake Success -- is disturbing to the average Jew in Jerusalem. Further aggravating the situation is the fact that no definite news about such an order has been received from the United Nations or from the Israel Government.

Heavy explosions, incessant machine-gun fire and mortar shelling rocked Jerusalem last night. Although it was generally expected that the Israeli Army would attack and overrun the Old City at any moment, no such development occurred. Instead Jewish troops seized the Arab village of Malcha, on Jerusalem's outskirts.

Jewish supply convoys from Tel Aviv are still using the so-called Burma Road which the Israelis blasted out of rock when they found it impossible to use the main Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway -- but the by-pass is being subjected to continually increasing Arab Legion artillery fire.

A terse Israeli communique said that several Arab villages were seized during the past 48 hours. They were described as "not important in themselves," but valuable for possible future operations. The seizure yesterday of Suba was termed by a Jewish Army spokesman today as "strengthening the control over the main road and neutralizing the enemy threat to the highway from the south."

50,000 POLISH JEWS LIVING IN LOWER SILESIA MARK THIRD YEAR OF RESETTLEMENT

WARSAW, July 15. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Lower Silesia -- which now numbers approximately 50,000 persons -- is currently celebrating its third year of residence in this former German territory.

A special survey, released today by Jacob Egit, chairman of the Jewish committee in the Lower Silesia area, listed the number of gainfully-employed Jewish industrial workers at 17,000, the number of labor cooperatives at 100, self-employed Jewish craftsmen at 1,000 and Jewish families engaged in farming at 300.

The report also disclosed that a total of 2,100 students are studying in 22 Jewish schools under 150 teachers. In Wroclaw, the first Jewish high school has been organized while music and ballet schools have also been established.

The present birth rate of the Jewish population is estimated at 46 per 1,000 population. Government vocational and ORT schools have a respective enrollment of 365 and 413, the survey said, while a total of 1,705 youths are engaged in some form of part-time work. More than 1,500 Jewish youths are members of sports clubs, dramatic, choral and literary groups and an amateur theater.

NOTABLES ATTEND DEDICATION OF NEW ORT BUILDING IN FRANCE DONATED BY I.L.G.W.U.

PARIS, Jul 15. (JTA) -- A new ORT building was dedicated today at Montreuil, a Paris suburb, in which all departments of the French ORT organization will now be centralized. The building is a gift of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union of the U.S.

Leon Meiss, president of the French ORT, presided during the dedication ceremonies which were attended by U.S. Ambassador Jefferson Caffrey; David Dubinsky, I.L.G.W.U. president; Labor Minister Daniel Mayer; Israeli Consul-General Abraham Goldberg, Leon Blum and other notables.

Ambassador Caffrey stressed the "importance of initiating a constructive and realistic program of economic and spiritual rehabilitation for the displaced Jews." Speaking in behalf of the French Government, Mayer declared: "If being on the side of the Jews means solidarity with the suffering of our people, then I am on their side." He thanked the I.L.G.W.U. for donating the ORT building and expressed the hope that "Israel may soon be recognized by all civilized nations and find its place among the United Nations."

YUGOSLAV USTASHI LEADER ADMITS IN WAR CRIMES TRIAL HE GASED THOUSANDS OF JEWS

BEIGRADE, July 15. (JTA) -- Ante Vrban, a wartime leader of a terrorist Ustashi band of 90 members, now standing trial here on charges of "crimes against the state," admitted today that he was responsible for the murder of a large number of Jewish children between the ages of one and 10 during the war.

The Croat leader confessed that he participated in the extermination in Yugoslavia of thousands of Jews and gypsies during the Nazi occupation period. Most of his victims, he said, perished in gas chambers.

ISRAELI SOCCER TEAM TO TOUR U.S.; ONLY TWO WOMEN ATHLETES WILL PARTICIPATE IN OLYMPICS

TEL AVIV, July 15. (JTA) -- An all-star Israeli soccer team is scheduled to tour the United States in September, it was announced here today. Members of the Maccabi, Betar and Hapoel teams are now being selected for the tour.

Meanwhile, it was learned that only two Israeli women athletes will participate in the International Olympics scheduled to be held in London later this month.

TESTIMONIAL DINNER HONORING DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER TO BE HELD IN CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND, July 15. (JTA) -- A testimonial dinner honoring Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, will be held here Monday evening, it was announced today by Rabbi Armand E. Cohen, chairman of the sponsoring committee. The dinner will be "a tribute to Dr. Silver for his successful leadership in the struggle to bring about the establishment and recognition of the state of Israel and for his 31 years of service to the Cleveland community as spiritual leader of The Temple," the announcement said.

Guest speakers include Dr. James G. McDonald, special U. S. representative to Israel; Aubrey S. Eban, Israeli representative to the United Nations; Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America; and Governor Thomas J. Herbert of Ohio. Rabbi Cohen, who will serve as chairman of the dinner, said that the dinner has already been over-subscribed. The sponsors committee comprises 150 Jewish and non-Jewish leaders in the civic, religious and business life of this city.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS URGES U.S. TO GRANT ISRAEL DE JURE RECOGNITION, LIFT EMBARGO

NEW YORK, July 15. (JTA) -- A message "calling upon the United States Government to take a forthright stand in the present Palestine crisis by granting de jure recognition to the state of Israel and by lifting the arms embargo so as to render aid to all its embattled people" was sent last night to President Truman and Secretary of State George C. Marshall by the American Jewish Congress. The appeal was signed by Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the Congress executive committee.

The message also urged the U.S. "to brand the Arab states who resumed war in Palestine in flagrant disregard of the U.N. decision as aggressors and violators of the expressed will of the United Nations. We ask the U.S. to use its voice in the United Nations to invoke international sanctions against the Arab states, to implement its decision concerning the establishment of Israel and to end bloodshed in the Holy Land," the message added.

ISRAELI PREMIER BEN GURION PAYS TRIBUTE TO AID OF AMERICAN JEWS IN MESSAGE TO Z.O.A.

NEW YORK, July 15. (JTA) -- Asserting that "without the active cooperation of American Jewry and Zionism, we would not have attained our present position," Israeli Premier David Ben Gurion, in a message to Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, which was made public last night, declared:

"The share of American pioneers in our achievement, from the days of the Legion in the first World War to the services of the late Col. Marcus in our present war, was considerable. We feel confident that your participation will not diminish but will increase and grow.

"Convinced that in our struggle we can rely upon the support of the Jewish people throughout the world and on its moral and political support of the freedom-loving nations of the world, we shall continue our fight till full victory is attained, the peace of the state of Israel is assured and the vision of our national redemption is realized," the message said.

NATHAN STRAUS NAMED CHAIRMAN OF 1948 "NIGHT OF STARS" FOR N.Y. UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

NEW YORK, July 15. (JTA) -- Nathan Straus, former U.S. Housing Commissioner and New York civic leader, has been named general chairman of the 1948 Night of Stars, annual all-star show at Madison Square Garden for the benefit of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, it was announced today.