

Thursday, July 22, 1948

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

ISRAELI FOREIGN OFFICE FORWARDS LIST OF ARAB TRUCE VIOLATIONS TO U.N. REPRESENTATIVE

TEL AVIV, July 21. (JTA) -- The official Voice of Israel radio announced today that the Israeli Foreign Office has submitted a list of Arab breaches of the truce of July 18, 19 and 20 to the United Nations representative in Tel Aviv.

These breaches of the truce are in addition to truce violations reported earlier in the Jerusalem area. They were attributed to Egyptian, Syrian, Iraqi and Arab Legion units.

Reports from Rhodes said that 66 American and Belgian military officers and men arrived there en route to Palestine to act as truce observers for Count Folke Bernadotte, U.N. mediator.

The Israeli Army is now holding more than 5,000 Arab prisoners of war, its chief of operations announced at a press conference today. He declared that fully 20 percent of the estimated 25,000 to 30,000 Arab troops of all the Arab armies fighting on Palestine soil had been killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

The army chief declared that Israeli forces now hold approximately 800 square miles of territory in Palestine beyond the frontiers assigned the state of Israel by the United Nations partition decision. Arab forces, he said, hold about 200 square miles of Israeli territory.

In the nine days of fighting between the end of the first truce and the new cease-fire order, Israeli forces, he said, captured 14 Arab towns. The Israeli forces now hold 201 of 291 Arab villages in Israel territory in addition to 112 outside of Israel. He added that 12 Arab aircraft had been shot down over Palestine in the nine days.

The Iraqi commander in Palestine yesterday issued orders to his forces to cease fire. Copies of the orders were brought to the Jewish Army commander in the Jenin area by Arab dispatch riders. Two Israeli officers were killed yesterday when a vehicle in which they were riding struck a mine near Ben Shemen, in the Lydda district. Five passengers and crew members of a Jewish civilian plane forced down on the coast near an Arab village yesterday were found murdered today. Three others known to have been in the plane are missing and it is believed that they escaped.

Announcement was made today that the Israeli Government has completed a draft constitution. The document will be submitted to the initial meeting of the first Israeli constituent assembly to which elections will be held in October.

Next Tuesday, the forty-fourth anniversary of the death of Theodor Herzl, founder of political Zionism, will be celebrated throughout Israel as an official holiday. The army's cultural and education department is arranging lectures for all army camps on that day linking Herzl's vision of a Jewish state in Palestine with the new state of Israel and outlining the duties of the Israeli soldier to the state and to the Jewish people.

JEWISH AND ARAB COMMANDERS IN JERUSALEM SIGN AGREEMENT MARKING TRUCE BOUNDARY LINES

JERUSALEM, July 21. (JTA) -- The commanders of the Arab and Jewish military forces facing each other with bristling guns across this city's "no man's land" today signed a truce boundaries agreement in a cordial atmosphere that almost hid the fact that they are still enemies. The ceremony took place in the presence of the three-man U.N. Consular Truce Commission.

Under the terms of the agreement, both sides agree to respect the lines which they occupied when the formal cease-fire order imposed by the Security Council came into effect here on July 17. The meeting was held in a house alongside Old City walls, near the Damascus Gate. After the indoors ceremony was completed, both parties went through their own areas to the demarcation lines in northern Jerusalem where, under the direction of a U.N. observer they agreed upon the exact boundary line between the Jewish and Arab zones.

The Jewish military leader in Jerusalem met the Egyptian commander separately since the Arab Legion and Egyptian officers could not reach any agreement between themselves on setting up a demarcation line.

U.N. OFFICIAL BLAMES ARABS FOR SLAYING OF U.N. TRUCE GUARD; MT. SCOPUS DEMILITARIZED

LAKE SUCCESS, July 21. (JTA) -- The death of Ole Helge Bakke, a United Nations guard who was killed while on truce enforcement duties in Jerusalem, was blamed today on the Arabs in a report submitted to U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie by Dr. Ralph Bunche, top aide to Palestine mediator Count Folke Bernadotte.

"An examination of bullet holes in the jeep (that Bakke was driving to Hadassah Hospital)," the report stated, "revealed that the fire must have come from the left front, namely, Arab positions. The jeep received approximately nine bullet holes in the rear seat and canopy," the report added.

A cable from the mediator's headquarters in Rhodes quoted Swedish Jerusalem observer Col. Nils Brunsson as stating that the Mt. Scopus area is now demilitarized and under United Nations supervision. The Swedish officer who is now at Rhodes also revealed that a new plan for briefing all U.N. observers in Rhodes before they assume their posts in Palestine is in operation.

Military observers from France, the U.S. and Belgium are conferring on Rhodes, the message said. Although he assumed that with the Israeli capture of the city's water pumping station at Ras el Ain, Jerusalem's Jews should now be receiving sufficient water, Brunsson said he did not know if this were so. During the first four-week truce period, he disclosed, 20 U.N. convoys of approximately 100 trucks each entered Jerusalem with food, medical and other supplies.

BEVIN TELLS COMMONS GOVERNMENT TRYING TO FREE FIVE BRITONS HELD BY ISRAEL FOR SPYING

LONDON, July 21. (JTA) -- Promising that he will do everything possible to secure the early release of the five British subjects now in the hands of the Israeli Government who will stand trial soon on charges of espionage, Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin told the House of Commons today that "I think this is a very bad start to the proposed new state."

Bevin said that Sir Alexander Cadogan, British delegate to the U.N. Security Council, would soon raise the question of obtaining the Britons' release in the international tribunal.

7/22/48

JAMES G. McDONALD, SPECIAL AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE TO ISRAEL, SAILS TOMORROW

WASHINGTON, July 21. (JTA) -- James G. McDonald, special U.S. representative to Israel, paid a final visit to President Truman today before leaving on Friday on the first part of his journey to the Jewish state.

McDonald said he will leave New York on the New Amsterdam and will go first to London to confer with U.S. Ambassador Lewis Douglas. He will fly from London to Switzerland to pay a courtesy call on Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Provisional Government of Israel. He will proceed to Tel Aviv by way of Rome and Athens, making stops in both those cities.

He declined to comment on his talk with President Truman and said, in reply to a question, that he was not bearing any special message to the people of Israel. "What would I say to them?" he asked. He said he had had a long conference with Secretary of State George C. Marshall this morning.

Eliahu Epstein, Israeli special representative to the U.S., and members of the Israeli mission staff were feted by State Department officials and U.S. special representative to Israel James G. McDonald at a luncheon at Blair Lee House this noon. Joseph C. Sattorthwaite, recently appointed chief of the State Department's office of Near Eastern and African Affairs, expressed the hope that wholesome, friendly relations will prevail between the two peoples.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN WILL ASK CONGRESS TO REMOVE ANTI-JEWISH FEATURES FROM DP LAW

WASHINGTON, July 21. (JTA) -- President Truman will ask Congress next week to eliminate the anti-Jewish and anti-Catholic features of the recently-enacted displaced persons law, Presidential press secretary Charles G. Ross said today.

Ross said the President would propose an amendment to make the necessary modifications. Presumably he will recommend changing the disputed cut-off date from December 22, 1945 to April 17, 1947, since determining eligibility by the earlier date tended to eliminate the greatest proportion of Jewish DP's who entered the camps after that date.

Ross said it had not yet been decided whether the President would ask Congress to make 400,000 displaced persons eligible for admission instead of the 265,000 now called for under terms of the law. A plank in the Democratic Party platform calls for the admission of 400,000.

MORE CONSULAR EMPLOYEES TO BE ASSIGNED TO GERMANY, AUSTRIA TO AID DP MIGRATION PROBLEM

WASHINGTON, July 21. (JTA) -- A number of consular employees now on duty in Eastern and Central European countries will soon be transferred to Germany and Austria where they will assist in the issuance of large numbers of visas authorized under the recently-passed Fellows-Wiley DP immigration bill, it was learned here today.

Announcement of the contemplated transfer was made by Robert C. Alexander, assistant chief of the State Department Visa Division, testifying at a recent hearing of a Senate committee investigating immigration problems. He added that the release of the personnel from the countries to which they are now assigned would be made possible by a contemplated sharp curtailment of the issuance of several types of visas to natives of Eastern and Central European countries.

DISPLACED JEWS IN ITALY ASK I.R.O. HEAD TO POSTPONE TRANSFERS TO NEW CAMPS IN SOUTH

ROME, July 21. (JTA) -- Representatives of Jewish refugee organizations in Italy recently visited Geneva to confer with William H. Tuck, secretary-general of the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization, on the problem of transferring displaced Jews in I.R.O. camps in northern Italy to centers in the south, it was revealed here today by the delegates upon their return.

The delegates, Dr. Leo Bernstein, chairman of the Organization of Jewish Refugees, and Jacob Duwdani, leader of the refugee group in northern Italy, urged Tuck to postpone the transfers until September 1, when, it is hoped, the vast majority of the Jews will be able to leave for Israel. Tuck said he could not give any promise concerning the transfers. However, he said that he would study another request--that restrictions on the personal liberties of the DP's in camps be lifted.

JEWISH SLAVE LABORERS CAPTURED ON RUSSIAN FRONT DURING WAR REPATRIATED TO TRANSYLVANIA

BUCHAREST, July 21. (JTA) -- A group of Jewish prisoners of war were recently repatriated from the Soviet Union, it was revealed here today in dispatches from Transylvania.

The men, all Transylvania Jews, were captured while serving in slave Hungarian army slave labor battalions on the Russian front during the war. They were enslaved by the pro-Nazi Horthy regime while Transylvania was a province of Hungary. The repatriates expressed satisfaction with the humane treatment which, they said, was accorded them in the Soviet Union.

GROUP OF LEADING AUSTRALIANS URGE GOVT. TO EXTEND IMMEDIATE RECOGNITION TO ISRAEL

MELBOURNE, Australia, July 21. (JTA) -- A group of leading Australians--including Bishop Sydney C. Pilcher, Dean S. Langley, of Perth, Prof. S. Turdock, and Doris Blackburn and James Frazer, Members of Parliament, as well as other influential citizens--today urged the Australian Government to recognize Israel.

In a message supported by the seamen's, ironworkers' and transportation unions, the group appealed to Minister for External Affairs Herbert Evatt to grant immediate recognition to the Jewish state. Evatt informed the group that although Australia and the British Government have exchanged hundreds of messages on the question of recognizing Israel, no decision has as yet been reached.

Meanwhile, the average newspaper reader continues to receive a distorted, pro-Arab picture of the Palestine fighting from reports published in the local papers. The Council of Australian Jewry last night sent a message to Israeli Premier David Ben Gurion pledging unstinted support to the Provisional Government of Israel.

CZECH FILM INDUSTRY TO PRODUCE HEBREW MOVIES FOR ISRAEL; FIRST FILM TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

PRAGUE, July 21. (JTA) -- A contract providing for the filming of motion pictures in Hebrew in the Barandov studios here has been signed between the Palam-Film corporation of Israel and Czechoslovakia's nationalized film industry, it was learned today.

The agreement calls for starting production on the first movie in October. The film will cost \$240,000. Israeli actors will be brought here to play the leading roles.

Meanwhile, Zvi Nadav, a specialist in the Israeli Ministry of Communications, arrived here from Poland to study Czechoslovakia's automobile industry as well as communications. He spent a considerable time in Poland studying the same industries.

Z.O.A. CHARGES "AMERICANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL" NOT AUTHORIZED BY ZIONIST BODIES

NEW YORK, July 21. (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of America, in a statement issued today by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, its president, warned American Jews not to support any new groups that were soliciting funds for Israel, and repudiated the recently-reorganized "Americans United for Israel" which, it said, has not been sanctioned or authorized by any official Zionist body.

The new group, now in formation, announced a few days ago that it was replacing "Americans for Haganah," which had been dissolved by a decision of the American section of the Jewish Agency. The Jewish Agency, in a statement, called upon Americans "not to contribute to any campaigns under whatever name for support of military organizations in Palestine."

The Agency's statement emphasized "that upon the establishment of the state of Israel and the creation of a single unified defense army, no organization is authorized by the Government of Israel to solicit contributions in the United States for any independent organizations, such as the Irgun," and also stressed that since Haganah has been merged in the official national defense army of the Jewish state, "the purposes of 'Americans for Haganah' have been fully served, and the organization accordingly will promptly suspend its activities."

In support of the Jewish Agency's policy on the dissolution of all unauthorized groups, the Z.O.A. said in its own statement that at the concluding sessions of its 51st annual convention in Pittsburgh, the more than two thousand delegates unanimously went on record requesting all Jews in America not to support unauthorized groups seeking financial contributions for Israel, outside of the United Jewish Appeal, without official approval.

The ZOA statement charged that the latest organized group by its admission and in statements published in the American press, "is merely a device to circumvent the recent request of the American section of the Jewish Agency which called upon 'Americans for Haganah' to discontinue its activities and dissolve its organization in view of the establishment of the Jewish Army which supplants Haganah." Pointing out that "Americans for Haganah" at that time indicated its willingness to comply by October 1, the new group's formation was regarded as "an indication that this compliance was only technical and that they intend to continue their unauthorized activities simply in re-organized form and under the guise of a new name."

Says New Group Will Sow Confusion and Discord

The ZOA statement sharply denounced the plans of the new group which, according to its press release, is to embrace also "public relations, publications, collections of materials, speakers' bureau, films and other activities." Declaring that this completely unauthorized activity can serve only to sow confusion or discord through overlapping and duplication of the highly effective support to Israel now being rendered by the official Zionist bodies in the United States, the statement continues:

"Such a proposed program brands the new organization not only as a reincarnation of the dissolved group, 'Americans for Haganah,' but as a hurtful attempt to set up a new political body which has not been authorized or approved by official Zionist bodies; such a group will serve to harm the concerted efforts of the existing Zionist bodies, as well as the United Jewish Appeal in its efforts to mobilize the maximum support for the economic reconstruction of the Republic of Israel."

J.D.C. TO CLOSE CUBAN OFFICE; AGENCY ASKS LOCAL COMMUNITY TO AID 200 JEWISH REFUGEES

HAVANA, July 21. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee will close its office here on October 1, it was announced here today. The local office of the agency provides for approximately 200 Jewish refugees who are unable to support themselves because of Cuban legislation banning the employment of non-citizens.

At a meeting with Jewish community leaders here last week, Louis Sobel, special J.D.C. representative, explained that the J.D.C. is ready and financially able to assume responsibility for the refugees. This is in line with the agency's policy of asking communities to handle local problems when they are able to do so. Current obligations in Europe, Shanghai and--to an ever-growing extent--in Moslem countries, compel the J.D.C. to reduce its present appropriations in countries where the needs are comparatively not as acute, he pointed out.

Although the Cuban Jewish leaders agreed to take over eventually the program of providing aid for the 200 refugees, they asked the J.D.C., through Sobel, for additional time during which the present program of J.D.C. assistance would not be stopped. The J.D.C. could not agree to this, however, Sobel told the meeting, since the \$75,000 which the agency expends annually in Cuba is required more urgently in other areas.

There are at present 12,000 Jews living in Cuba. Most of the 200 refugees in Havana have no relatives in the United States and, since they are not permitted to become self-sufficient, must depend on relief assistance.

B'NAI B'RITH ASKS SECRETARY MARSHALL TO MAKE FULL INQUIRY INTO FATAL STONING OF HAAS

WASHINGTON, July 21. (JTA) -- Secretary of State George C. Marshall was asked today by B'nai B'rith to make "a full inquiry into all the relevant circumstances surrounding the tragic death of Stephen Haas in Cairo." A member of the Philadelphia B'nai B'rith, Haas was stoned to death on Sunday by an Egyptian mob.

"The representations already made by our Charge D'Affaires to the government of Egypt," a letter from B'nai B'rith to Secretary Marshall said, "should be vigorously pursued with a view to securing from the Egyptian Government just punishment and full and appropriate amends, as required by international law."

WORLD CONFEDERATION OF GENERAL ZIONISTS ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF NEW SETTLEMENT IN GALILEE

NEW YORK, July 21. (JTA) -- The World Confederation of General Zionists announced here today the establishment of a General Zionist colony--"Timurim"--in the Galilee in Israel. Situated on approximately 400 acres of Jewish National Fund land, the settlement is inhabited chiefly by young South African and Rumanian Jews.

"The establishment of Timurim, as well as other colonies, will, to some extent, compensate us for the tragic loss of Nitzanin," Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Confederation, declared. Nitzanin was destroyed by a fierce Arab assault in the Arab-Israeli war.

COURSES IN ZIONISM AND ISRAEL'S PROBLEMS INTRODUCED IN JEWISH DP CAMPS IN ITALY

ROME, July 21. (JTA) -- Intensive two-weeks courses covering the growth of the Zionist movement and the current problems of the Jewish state have been established in all Jewish displaced persons camps in Italy by the Central Committee of Italian Jews and the Hechalutz, it was learned here today.