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ISRAELI CONVOY EN ROUTE TO NEGEV ATTACKED BY EGYPTIANS; HEAVY BATTLE RAGING

TEL AVIV, July 28. (JTA) -- An Israeli Army convoy bound for the Negev was attacked by Egyptian forces last night, an official communique reported today. The convoy was attacked with automatic weapons and artillery when it endeavored to proceed to the southern desert area via a Jewish-held corridor which passes through Egyptian lines.

The communique said heavy fighting continued through the night and is still raging. Israeli units replied to the Egyptian assault by attacking the enemy's communications lines and motor concentrations. The Jewish convoy was compelled to turn back, the communique said. U.N. truce observers were dispatched to the battle area late today.

In Jerusalem, both Arabs and Jews today complained to the U.N. truce commission that the other side was guilty of violating the truce. The Stern Group said an Arab sniper had shot one of its members while the Arabs said the Jews were firing mortar shells into the Old City.

Haganah Commando Veteran Appointed New Jerusalem Commander

Col. Moshe Dayan, veteran Israeli commander, will replace David Shealtiel as commander of the Sixth Brigade in Jerusalem, it was announced here. It was reported that Dayan will soon be named military governor for the city, in line with an announcement earlier this week claiming the Jewish sector of Jerusalem as Israeli-occupied territory.

Dayan has been a leader of commando units in the Negev, and during World War II served as a scout leader for the British in the Syrian campaign. He lost an eye in that operation. Several weeks ago he accompanied the body of the late Col. David Marcus back to the United States. Shealtiel will probably be appointed to a diplomatic post abroad, it was stated.

An Israeli intelligence report made public today said that Egyptian troops wounded in the recent fighting are not being sent home but are being kept in field hospitals, probably to conceal the extent of casualties from the civilian population.

Minister for Minorities Behor Shitreet visited Lydda and issued orders that the Arabs' economic, housing and water supply problems be met with immediately. Only 700 Arabs have remained in Lydda since the town's capitulation to Israel forces. Most of them are Christians.

Meanwhile, the Panamanian Foreign Minister today welcomed the state of Israel into "the family of nations." In a message to Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok, the Panama Government greeted the new state as of "equal international status with other nations."

An official Immigration Ministry announcement declared that "it is hoped to maintain--and even to speed up--the present immigration rate to Israel, which is

designed to bring in 120,000 immigrants annually." The announcement disclosed that the first immigrants will be the 12,000 Jews still detained on Cyprus and 100,000 living in displaced persons camps in Europe. There are at present eight reception camps in Israel capable of housing 20,000 persons simultaneously.

It was learned here that the praesidium of the Zionist Actions Committee has decided to fulfill the request of its American members to postpone the next session of the group to August 22. The meeting will be held in Jerusalem.

An Israeli spokesman said today that military attaches will probably be appointed to Israel's major legations abroad, as will commercial and press representatives. He revealed that at present the Jewish state has arranged postal communications with 35 countries. With most of them there is also an air mail service, he said.

It was reported from Beirut today that a hand grenade thrown into the heavily guarded Jewish quarter of the city by unidentified persons resulted in the wounding of at least three Jews.

HAIFA OIL REFINERIES REOPENED BECAUSE ISRAELI STOCKS WERE EXTREMELY LOW, MINISTER SAYS

TEL AVIV, July 28. (JTA) -- "We reopened the Haifa oil refineries because our oil and gasoline reserves were dangerously low," Minister of Trade Dr. Fritz Bernstein told a press conference here today.

"Now," he said, "we have had interesting offers from several countries willing to sell us crude oil for delivery to Haifa. The resumption of operations at the refineries is one of the main victories of our war effort. We do not want war with the British oil companies, but since they did not wish to open the refineries, we did it ourselves," he added.

Meanwhile, the government has approached two leading United States oil companies with a proposal that they supply crude oil to the Haifa refinery. U.S. authorities have been told that all surplus oil, not required for local consumption, would be made available to the European Recovery Program. At the same time, the authorities were informed that if the United States is unable to supply the Haifa refinery, the Israeli Government will be compelled to accept offers of crude oil from Rumania. It is pointed out here that the Haifa refinery is capable of supplying 3,000,000 tons for B.R.P. in the next 12 months, which is nearly 20 percent of the total oil allocation.

The Rumanian offer to supply crude oil, it was learned here today, is conditional on Israeli agreement that all surplus refined kerosene will be offered for sale to Eastern Europe first.

Either way, Israeli authorities believe that once the Iraqi see Haifa operating without oil from Kirkuk, they will reconsider their decision to cut off the Pipeline flow. That decision, unless it is promptly reversed, will cost Iraq's treasury about \$12,000,000 a year, which is more than one-quarter of the country's entire national revenue. The loss of this amount would be felt with particular severity this year since the national expenditure has sharply increased as a result of the war in Palestine and revenues dropped due to a serious drought and locust plague.

Should the Haifa refinery continue to operate successfully without Iraqi oil, the main losers would be Iraq and the other Arab states which in the past drew their supplies of refined oil products from Haifa. The Tripoli refinery in the Lebanon is unable to take its place because Tripoli's capacity is only 250,000 tons a year.

PROGRESSIVE ARABS ORGANIZING GOVERNMENT ON BASIS OF U.N. PARTITION DECISION

HAIFA, July 28. (JTA) -- A movement has started among progressive Arab leaders to establish an Arab Government in Palestine in line with the U.N. partition decision of last November, it was learned here today. The Arabs, whose headquarters is in Nazareth, are prepared to recognize the legality of partition and to collaborate with the Israeli Government in all activities, including the joint economic activity as visualized in the U.N. partition decision.

The members of the movement are said to be opposed equally to the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem and King Abdullah of Transjordan. It is reported that the man most likely to head such a provisional Arab Government if it comes into existence is now negotiating with Israeli leaders. The Arabs hope that a majority of the member nations of the U.N. will extend them recognition as the official Palestine Arab Government.

Meanwhile, it was reported in informed circles here that the Arab League, which by all standards should be the most potent political force in the Middle East, is facing disunity and disruption. The personal rivalries of the Arab rulers, the cost of the Palestine war and the losses suffered in the conflict are said to be responsible for the state of the League.

Disunity became apparent during the recent six weeks of protracted bargaining when the Arabs tried to organize a provisional government for Palestine. During the late stages of the negotiations, King Abdullah conferred with King Farouk of Egypt and ostensibly reached agreement on the disposition of territory and political power. But the newly-formed Arab Government Council for Palestine was a slap in the face to Abdullah. The Council President, Ahmad Hilmi Pasha, was the only strong Abdullah supporter. The two most powerful positions--Public Security and National Economy--went to Jamal EL Housseini and another relative of the Mufti. Two other pro-Mufti Arabs were given prominent positions.

Simultaneously, Abdullah was confronted with the vexing problem of the loss of his hold on local administrations. When the Arab Legion entered Palestine, Abdullah sent administrators to govern the occupied areas. Short of funds, he told them to "live off the land." That was a blunder. Officials plundered their assigned areas. Meanwhile, thousands of Palestinian refugees from the Jewish areas, unable to get food, housing or medical attention, demonstrated against Abdullah in Nablus and other Arab centers.

Ibn Saud Turns Down Iraq and Syrian Demands for Oil Sanctions

The League's disunity was strikingly shown at its Political Committee's meeting in Lebanon nearly two weeks ago. During discussions of the U.N. Security Council's truce demands, the Syrian and Iraqi Premiers suggested that the Arabs consider counter-sanctions against Britain and the United States, including the cancellation of oil concessions.

The Saudi-Arabian representative, according to reports, bluntly told the meeting that King Ibn Saud had never committed himself to any oil sanctions, and suggested that Arab militarists examine their gasoline reserves before taking action which would close down refineries and leave Arab armies without fuel. Iraq's Premier reportedly said nothing but it was obvious that Iraq is in a position similar to Saudi Arabia, whose entire economy is based on dollars from oil concessions, and Transjordan, which is a going concern only because of British subsidies.

SENATE GETS NEW DP BILL; WOULD ELIMINATE OBJECTIONABLE FEATURES OF OLD ACT

WASHINGTON, July 28. (JTA) -- A displaced persons bill designed by the administration to eliminate the discriminatory features of the present displaced persons law was introduced in the Senate today and six Republican Senators sponsored a separate amendment to change the date of eligibility from December 22, 1945, to April 21, 1947.

The new bill was introduced by Democratic Senators J. Howard McGrath and Carl Hatch. A similar measure was introduced in the House yesterday by Rep. Francis Walter, Pennsylvania Democrat.

It eliminates the requirement that the displaced persons must be assured of jobs and housing--without displacing an American--before coming to this country. It eliminates the present requirement that 40 percent of those admitted be Balts and 30 percent farmers. The first requirement had been termed administratively unworkable and the second is said to discriminate against Jewish and Catholic DP's.

The bill would term the problem as of an emergency character and admit the DP's on a non-quota basis instead of mortgaging future quotas. It would extend from two to four years the life of the three-man displaced persons commission which will administer the bill.

President Truman is expected to send to Congress within a day or two the appointments of the three-man DP Commission, an official White House source said today.

Members of the commission will be Laurence E. Vineburgh, a member of the board of directors of the United Service for New Americans and a prominent Hartford social service leader; Ugo Carusi, former U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Commissioner and at present a State Department assistant on displaced persons; and Edward O'Connor, administrative assistant of the War Relief Services branch of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, it was authoritatively learned.

ISRAELI CONSULATE IN NEW YORK OPENED; DR. SILVER GETS FIRST VISA FOR JEWISH STATE

NEW YORK, July 28. (JTA) -- Special visa number one for Israel was issued today to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, in ceremonies which marked the official opening of the Israeli Consulate General in New York. Dr. Silver will leave for Israel next month to attend a meeting of the General Zionist Council in Tel Aviv.

Arthur Lourie, consul general, announced the appointment of several consular officers this afternoon. Moshe Yuval was named vice-consul and is in charge of the Passport Office. He was formerly with the Political Department of the Jewish Agency as aide to Moshe Shertok, now Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs. Moshe Krone is assistant passport control officer. Gideon Strauss, of the Anglo-Palestine Bank, was named vice-consul in charge of commercial affairs.

At the same time, it was announced that the Israeli Office of Information here has opened a specialized reference service at the Consular Office. Under the direction of Mrs. Rinna Dafni, the reference service will answer inquiries on points of information regarding Israel.

BEVIN REFUSES TO COMMENT ON DEMANDS IN COMMONS THAT BRITAIN RECOGNIZE ISRAEL

LONDON, July 28. (JTA) -- After being exhorted by several Members of Parliament today to extend recognition to the state of Israel, Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin told Commons that he "had nothing to add" to his statement in the House on June 9 in which he said that the British Government does not recognize any persons in Palestine as a de jure government. During the debate, Barnett Janner, Labor, pointed to the United Nations' recognition of the Provisional Government of Israel as a precedent for Britain to follow.

S. Segal, another Laborite, termed Israel the "most progressive country in the entire Middle East" and urged that the British Government "assist the Arab states to face reality by granting de facto recognition to Israel." In reply to a question on whether "recognizing Israel would not facilitate the position of the oil refineries" in Haifa, Bevin declared that recognizing the Jewish state would not bring more oil out of Iraq.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT EXPECTED TO EXTEND RECOGNITION TO STATE OF ISRAEL SHORTLY

PARIS, July 28. (JTA) -- The belief that the French Government will soon extend official recognition to the state of Israel was expressed here today in informed Jewish circles. It is held likely that the question of recognition for the Jewish state will be taken up at one of the first sessions of the new Cabinet.

Some circles claim that the French Government would have recognized Israel if it had not been compelled to resign. These same informants are optimistic over the possibility that France will soon extend recognition to Israel, particularly now that former Foreign Minister Georges Bidault has been replaced by Robert Schuman. Last month President Chaim Weizmann of Israel was received by Schuman who was reported to have been very deeply impressed with the Israeli leader as well as with the cause he represents.

Andre Philip, former Minister of Finance and National Economy, who returned this week from a visit to Israel, today addressed a meeting of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee. The committee is reported to have been favorably impressed by Philip's report.

ISRAELI MINISTER TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT GOTTWALD

PRAGUE, July 28. (JTA) -- President Klement Gottwald today received Israeli Minister to Czechoslovakia Ehud Ueberall, who was accompanied by Drs. Uriel Felix and Uri Lichtwitz, secretaries of the Israeli legation.

Ueberall formally presented his credentials to the Czechoslovak President. An impressive reception in the President's palace followed the audience.

I.R.O. GIVING MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS TO JEWS IN DISPLACED PERSONS CAMPS IN ITALY

ROME, July 28. (JTA) -- A program of medical examinations for all displaced Jews in camps in Italy has been begun by the International Refugee Organization which is responsible for the administration of the centers, it was learned here today.

The check-up program was introduced under pressure from the Joint Distribution Committee and the local representative of the Jewish Agency. Thus far the I.R.O. officials have refused to make the results of the examinations available to the Agency, which requires it in planning its Israeli immigration program. No reason has been offered by the I.R.O. for withholding the information.

CHRISTIAN GROUP AT INTERNATIONAL PARLEY CALLS FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE, GREETIS ISRAEL

FRIBOURG, Switzerland, July 28. (JTA) -- The Christian members of the Religious Commission of the International Conference of Christians and Jews, which is meeting here, today issued a statement calling for immediate peace in Palestine. The statement was arrived at after "taking into account the legitimate interests of all religious and ethnic communities in the country."

"While not entering into any political issues," the Commission members said, "there is no reason to oppose a Jewish state on theological grounds. We greet with joy the dawning hope that the Jews will escape humiliation and persecution--especially the displaced Jews," the statement added. "From a purely religious standpoint," the announcement continued, "we hope that Israel is taking root afresh in the land of the Bible and will experience new spiritual strength and realize fully its vocation."

Earlier, the formation of the Council for Understanding Between Christians and Jews in Munich and its admission into the international body meeting here was announced by Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews in the U.S. In a welcoming address, Clinchy told the officials of the new group that the Germans will never be free so long as they permit racial discrimination in Germany.

MUNICH LEADERS ASK SEPARATE ORGANIZATION TO HANDLE WELFARE PROBLEMS OF BAVARIAN JEWS

MUNICH, July 28. (JTA) -- A call for the formation of a separate organization to handle the problems of Jewish persecutees of the Nazis was voiced here at the annual meeting of the Munich Jewish Community by Dr. Julius Spanier, its president.

Dr. Spanier attacked the Bavarian Welfare Organization for Former Persecutees as not having handled the problems of the Jews adequately. He was joined by Dr. Aaron Ohrenstein, Chief Rabbi of Bavaria, who also asserted that the Jews needed a separate organization.

Dr. Philip Auerbach, Bavarian Commissioner for Persecutees, told the meeting that he favored a change in the Jewish welfare set-up. However, he made no specific suggestions for correcting the abuses in the present situation. Joint Distribution Committee officials here have indicated to the Jewish authorities that they are not satisfied with the Bavarian Welfare Organization distributing overseas packages and have also recommended the formation of a separate group for the Jews.

ARGENTINE JEWS PROTEST BOLIVIA'S INVESTIGATION OF JEWISH COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

BUENOS AIRES, July 28. (JTA) -- A delegation of the DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry, today called on the Bolivian Ambassador to Argentina to protest against a reported decision by the La Paz Government to investigate the "commercial activities of the Semitic elements" who entered Bolivia after 1937.

Composed of Dr. Moises Goldman, honorary president, Dr. Benjamin Rinsky, secretary, and Dr. Alexandro Dicovsky, chairman of the press commission, the DAIA delegation expressed its "grave concern" over the Bolivian Government's action. The delegation asserted that the move signifies "anti-Jewish discrimination which is unworthy of a democratic regime" and said the proposed inquiry is based on "absurd racial" concepts. The Ambassador promised to transmit the delegation's views to La Paz.