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LAST MINUTE NEWS

JEWS AND ARABS AGREE TO DEMILITARIZATION OF JERUSALEM, BERNADOTTE REITERATES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte today reiterated here that both the Government of Israel and Arab League representatives have agreed to the demilitarization of Jerusalem in principle. He added that the negotiations for demilitarization would not be allowed to influence the future status of the city.

Bernadotte estimated that some 2,500 U.N. personnel would be required to supervise the demilitarized area and admitted that it would not be practical for either Jewish or Arab fighting men to be withdrawn until the international police force was on the scene. In response to correspondents' questions, Bernadotte also stated that "demilitarization actually means temporary partition of Jerusalem until the city's ultimate status is decided.

Among other problems which Bernadotte discussed with local Jewish leaders was the supplying of piped water from the coast, supply convoys and the numerous sniping incidents. Shooting was heard throughout the day as Bernadotte attended conferences and when he spoke with newsmen at the French consulate.

A five-member Israeli Cabinet committee which arrived here today from Tel Aviv began discussions with local Jewish leaders on such problems as the relationship between the municipality and the community council and what type of representation the local inhabitants will have on the military administration of the city.

Aaron Zisling, Minister of Agriculture, declared that the members of the committee would do everything possible to alleviate the suffering of the Jews of the city, but that discussions about Jerusalem's future status must wait until the same problem had been thrashed out on an international plane. Other members of the committee, which will remain here until Thursday, are: David Remez, Minister for Communications; Itzhak Gruenbaum, Interior; I.M. Lewin, Social Welfare; and Rabbi Judah L. Fishman, Religion.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT NOT CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES FOR LOAN

TEL AVIV, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government is not conducting any negotiations with the United States for a loan, it was stated in government circles here today.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry announced that the government import policy will bring foodstuffs and raw materials into the country ahead of other products. The countries from which these products will be purchased will be selected not only from point of view of ease of delivery, but also on the basis of the trade balance existing between Israel and the supplying nation, he added.

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BRITAIN SUPPLIES EGYPTIAN ARMY IN PALESTINE WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT; VIOLATES TRUCE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government today formally accused British military authorities of a violation of the truce by supplying the Egyptian Army with military equipment which was immediately transferred to Egyptian bases inside Palestine territory.

In a complaint to the United Nations Truce Commission today, the Israeli authorities charged that on July 29, Egyptian forces received electrical, mechanical and radio equipment from British stores at Rafa, on the Egyptian-Palestine frontier. The equipment, the complaint added, was then sent to the Egyptian base at Iraq Suweidan, in the Negev.

The Egyptians continued their attacks on Israeli positions last night, according to an official communique here. The communique reported an assault on the heights overlooking the Jewish settlement of Revivin, in the Negev. Truce observers were summoned to the spot but arrived after the engagement was broken off.

The first deportation from Israel was reported today in an official communique which said that John Larsen, the son of a former Swedish consul in Jerusalem who "suddenly appeared" as a member of a U.N. truce team, was banned from Israeli territory for "having been intimately involved in Palestinian politics as a pro-Arab."

Previously, Larsen, a temporary aide to the U.N. truce commission, was warned that if he showed up in Israeli territory he would be detained. Last week, wearing a U.N. uniform, he arrived in Haifa where he was once again warned to leave Israel. Instead he made his way to Qubaba, where he was promptly arrested by Jewish authorities. His release was obtained after strong representations from the U.N. truce officials and he left Israel today by air.

Four members of a Special Cabinet committee on Jerusalem today left here for the Holy City to discuss the administrative status of Jerusalem under military rule with Dr. Bernard Joseph, newly-appointed military governor of the city. The four are: Minister of Interior Itzhak Gruenbaum, Minister of Communications David Remez, Minister of Social Welfare I.M. Lewin, and Minister of Agriculture Aaron Zisling.

2,500 Men Needed to Enforce Jerusalem Demilitarization Plan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- A force of 2,500 men will be required to enforce the demilitarization of Jerusalem if that plan is accepted by the Jews and Arabs, U.N. Palestine mediator Count Folke Bernadotte declared here today. As he spoke, snipers' bullets ricocheted off the building in which he addressed a group of correspondents.

Before leaving for Ramallah, nine miles north of this city where U.N. officials reported large numbers of Arab refugees have caused a "serious situation," the mediator conferred with Israeli military governor for Jerusalem Dr. Bernard Joseph on the question of demilitarization.

UNITED STATES WILL SUPPORT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO U.N.

LAKE SUCCESS, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- The United States Government will support the application of the Israeli Government for membership in the United Nations when that application is submitted, it was learned here today.

An American delegation spokesman, who said that the decision to back Israel had been reached in Washington within the past few days, stated that support would be forthcoming at both the Security Council, where the application is first filed and voted upon, and at the General Assembly, where final action is taken.

An Israeli delegation official, asked to comment on this development, declared that his government is determined to press for early admission to the international body, despite the known opposition of several delegations on the Council. The Israeli mission is preparing a special memorandum, to accompany its application, which will point out that it is entitled to membership as a creature of the U.N. The memorandum will also cite the Israeli Government's record of strict adherence to all U.N. orders throughout the admittedly difficult Palestine negotiations.

The charge that Count Folke Bernadotte has become "a representative of the anti-Israel bloc headed by Great Britain," is made today by the New York Post in an editorial declaring that "Bernadotte has outlived his usefulness as a mediator in the effort to achieve a lasting and just peace in the Middle East."

"A strong tendency to regard the armed attack upon Israel as a justifiable method of negotiation has been evident for some time in the mediator's attitude toward the problems arising from the failure of the United Nations to enforce its partition decision," the Post says. "The original proposals by the Count to establish an all-Arab capital for King Abdullah in Jerusalem should have been the signal for his removal. And now no further excuse can be found for continuing his services in the guise of an objective representative of the United Nations. He has become the open advocate of the joint British-Arabian plan to force Israel to open her borders to Arabs, while at the same time insisting that Jewish immigration be blocked," the editorial declares.

British Gov't. Urged to Grant Immediate Recognition to Israel

LONDON, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- Britain's leading liberal organ, the Manchester Guardian, called on the British Government today to extend immediate recognition to the state of Israel. Overlong delay of recognition, the Guardian warned, would go for nothing and would be an "ill-graced surrender to events."

The paper added that recognition of Israel as an element in a durable settlement of the Palestine problem would serve British interests well and it advised the Arab states that they would lose less "face" by bowing to the United Nations than have to admit later that "Israel was too hard a nut for them to crack."

The London Times, in an editorial today, said that the detention of the five British engineers by Israeli authorities on espionage charges is a stumbling block to British recognition of the Jewish state. It warned that the "kidnappings of the five Britons raised issues of international morality which cannot be brushed aside by the Provisional Government of Israel for the sake of immediate political advantages."

SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO GET ISRAELI REQUEST FOR SESSION ON CYPRUS DETAINEES TODAY

LAKE SUCCESS, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government will this week call on the U.N. Security Council to demand unconditional British release of some 13,000 Jewish refugees now forcibly detained on the island of Cyprus, it was indicated here today.

A formal demand for Council intervention has been prepared by Israeli's U.N. delegate, Aubrey Eban, and will be circulated to Council members tomorrow through Council president Yacov Malik of the Soviet Union preliminary to a special Council session on the Israeli complaint.

According to authoritative information Malik is expected to act promptly on the Israeli request and convoke the Council some time this week. The Israeli note will demand that the British release the refugees to Israeli authorities who will make provisions for bringing them to Palestine.

In pressing the issue before the Council Israeli authorities here said they were taking supplementary action to the decision of the Council yesterday calling for an overall, long-range settlement of the entire Jewish-Arab problem arising from the postwar population tangle. The Israeli note is expected to stress the essential illegality of the British detention of Jews long after the termination of the British Mandate in Palestine which was the original excuse on which the British defended their action.

The Israeli claim will be that the British action in holding the Cyprus Jews is not in conformity with the provisions of the truce created by the Security Council. The Israeli note will reject the current British contention that release of the Jews would add to Israel's military potential in violation of the spirit of the truce, as a unilateral decision contrary to the ruling of Palestine mediator Count Folke Bernadotte who already ruled that the admission of the Cyprus Jews would in no way undermine the cease-fire provisions in Palestine.

STATE DEPARTMENT DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICANS AIDING REPORTED ISRAELI ARMS TRAFFIC

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- The State Department today denied any knowledge of American citizens being engaged in a reported air shuttle of arms for Israel from Czechoslovakia. The statement was made following a report that American-made Skymaster planes chartered under the Panamanian flag were being used in the arms traffic.

A Department spokesman said the Department had no information that any Americans were involved, but said that they had "from time to time received reports that American citizens have been engaged in assisting deliveries of arms and planes to Israeli forces. The Department has repeatedly said that the practice is inconsistent with the intent and spirit of the U.N. Security Council resolution. Where U.S. citizens or crewmen are involved and where the aircraft concerned is operating under the U.S. flag the Department is investigating the circumstances," the spokesman concluded.

Jews of Istanbul Apply to Turkish Govt. for Permission to Hold Communal Elections

ISTANBUL, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Istanbul has applied to the government for authorization to hold communal elections, it was announced here today by the Chief Rabbinate.

Members of the present community council have held office since 1931 because government permission, which must be obtained before any election may be held, has never been granted since then. When the application is granted the community council will make arrangements for the election of a "general assembly" which will choose the members of the new council.

Jews in Bavaria Criticize Justice Minister for Permitting Nazis to Serve as Judges

MUNICH, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- Criticism against Dr. Josef Mueller, Bavarian Minister of Justice, for permitting the existence of a situation in which 80 percent of the judges now serving in Bavaria are former members of the Nazi Party was voiced here today in the Jewish weekly, "Neue Welt." The figures were made public recently in a report by the American Military Government which termed the situation "alarming."

"It seems that the Minister of Justice, Dr. Mueller, is not at all alarmed by this percentage, as are the American authorities," the Jewish publication says. "On the contrary, he is anxious to get the displaced Jews under German rule and thus entrust those persons with jurisdiction over former victims of the Nazi regime."

4,000 Jewish Houses in Warsaw District Remain Unclaimed by Heirs, Government Reports

WARSAW, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- The simplified procedure for filing claims for the restitution of property in Poland owned by the victims of Nazi persecution, or their heirs, will be discontinued after Dec. 31, 1948, it was announced here today.

After that date, persons who owned property in Poland before the outbreak of the war will be able to file their claims during the next decade, but the procedure -- involving considerable court action -- will be long and drawn out.

A government announcement revealed that in the Warsaw district alone there are still 4,000 buildings which belonged to Jews before the start of World War II that are listed as unclaimed.

Reduction of Food Rations for Unemployed in Rumania Predicted; Will Hit Many Jews

GENEVA, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- Changes in Rumania's economic set-up, and the strong possibility that food rations will soon be reduced for those persons not possessing employment cards, have created a situation calling for a special rescue and rehabilitation program among the Jewish population, Dr. A. Syngalowski, executive chairman of the World ORT Union, reported here today following his return from a visit to Eastern Europe.

Dr. Syngalowski disclosed that a project calling for the swift vocational retraining of 3,600 Jewish adults has been launched by the ORT to cope with the new situation. ORT schools have been opened in Timisoara, Arad and Ploesti and additional training facilities will soon be made available in Bucharest, Jassy, Galatz and Razan, he said.

Jewish Women in Budapest Outnumber Men Three to Two, Statistical Survey Reveals

BUDAPEST, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- There are nearly three Jewish women for every two Jewish men in Budapest, statistics released here today disclosed. In the provincial area the trend is almost equal, with the men holding a slight edge over the women.

The difference in trends in Budapest and in the provinces has been traced to the different policies of the pro-Nazi regime during the war. In Budapest the authorities killed and deported to concentration camps and slave labor battalions many more men than women. In the provinces, however, both men and women were deported equally and the men survived their imprisonment and labor better than the women. In Budapest, it was revealed, there are some 24,000 aged and 7,000 young orphaned Jewish children.

ARGENTINE POLICE ARREST GROUP CHARGED WITH SMUGGLING JEWS INTO COUNTRY FROM URUGUAY

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- A group of non-Jews allegedly engaged in smuggling Jews into Argentina from Uruguay was arrested here today by Argentine police officials.

At the same time a Jewish family caught attempting to enter the country illegally was also detained. According to the police, the smugglers were charging 200 pesos (\$50) to get each Jew across the Argentine border.

LEAD OF AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH DISPUTES JEWISH AGENCY RIGHT TO DISSOLVE ORGANIZATION

NEW YORK, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- The decision to dissolve the Americans for Haganah, which will remain in existence until October 1, and create a new Americans United for Israel "with a broader scope for activity" was a "completely autonomous decision and in no way connected with any ukase of the Jewish Agency or the Zionist Organization of America," Abraham Feinberg, president of the executive committee of the Americans for Haganah, declared in a statement issued here today.

Feinberg's statement was issued in reply to a letter sent him last week by the American section of the Jewish Agency, charging that the decision to form the Americans United for Israel was a "flagrant defiance of the decision to dissolve Americans for Haganah." The statement insisted that "to attempt to stifle or control this new organization purely on the grounds that it is not authorized by official Zionist parties, or by the Government of Israel is a violation of every basic right which we have as Americans."

Feinberg also pointed out that the Americans for Haganah was not created by virtue of any authority of the Agency or the Z.O.A., but "was formulated by a group of Americans for a specific purpose which was to disseminate information concerning Haganah and to rally support for Haganah from the American public.

In attacking the Agency's authority to order his organization dissolved, Feinberg asserted that the status of the Agency since the end of the Palestine Mandate "has not been clearly defined." Until the status of the Agency is fully determined, the statement declared, the "American section has no right to assume powers which have not been delegated to it." Feinberg also objected to the American section issuing a statement in the name of the full executive.

4,500 JEWISH REFUGEES IN STUTTGART AREA IN U.S. ZONE ARE EMPLOYED, J.D.C. REPORTS

NEW YORK, Aug. 3. (JTA) -- A heartening picture of industry and useful activity among Jews in the DP camps in the Stuttgart area, U.S. zone of Germany, was drawn today by Harold Kaplan, who recently returned to this country after almost two years abroad as area director in that region for the Joint Distribution Committee.

Mr. Kaplan, who supervised JDC aid in thirteen camps in the American zone, reported that approximately 30 percent of the 15,000 DP's were engaged in some form of work, training, or special services. Many were employed by the American Military Government, IRO, in the camps themselves, or as apprentices in German factories, where they receive valuable training for the future. The 30 percent figure, it was pointed out, compares favorably with the latest data in the United States, which shows 40 percent of the population to be gainfully employed.

Highly encouraging also, Mr. Kaplan said, is the educational program in the camps, where, despite acute shortages of teachers and equipment, Jewish youngsters are making rapid progress in both JDC workshops and academic classrooms. The camps, which are administered to a large degree by the DP's themselves, also boast excellent medical facilities, many of which are provided by JDC.

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