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ISRAEL STATE COUNCIL BEGINS PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

TEL AVIV, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Work was begun here today on preparations for the forthcoming elections to the Israeli Constituent Assembly. The elections will be held in the late autumn, if fighting does not resume.

The committee recently elected by the State Council to prepare for the voting held its first meeting today at which it mapped out plans for the setting up of voting machinery. At its next session, the committee will consider a draft of the election statute.

(Konrad Bercovici, vice-chairman of the American League for a Free Palestine, who returned by air from Jerusalem, today told a press conference in New York that the present Provisional Government of Israel "is preparing steps to perpetuate itself even, if necessary, by suspending the scheduled elections next month." He denied that the Irgun is making preparations for battle in Jerusalem and said that rumors about such preparations are "being circulated in an attempt to lay the groundwork for a violent attack against anyone who might beat the present Israeli Government in a free election.")

Court Starts Hearings on Imprisonment of Bergson and Other Irgunists

Enough evidence to "charge the defendants with high treason" was alleged in court today against Peter Bergson and Jacob Meridor by Zvi Ayalon, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Israeli Army, at the hearing in a habeas corpus proceeding brought by defense counsel Max Seligman and Max Kritzman in behalf of the detained men and three other members of Irgun Zvai Leumi.

Ayalon added that Bergson, chairman of the American Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, and Meridor, deputy Irgun chief, would be released as soon as public security permitted, when the army was assured of the Israeli hinterland. The five Irgun members were arrested in connection with the attempt of the Irgun ship Altalena to land an arms cargo off Tel Aviv during the first United Nations truce.

The decision that the arrest warrant should be issued came from David Ben Gurion as Minister of Defense, Ayalon said, and the warrant was issued by the Army chief of staff, Jacob Dori. He added that evidence against Bergson showed that he had prepared an armed resistance against the Israeli Army.

Israeli Military Governor Regrets Shooting of U.S. Guard in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Israeli military governor Dr. Bernard Joseph today expressed his regrets over the week-end shooting of Joseph Przyowsky, a U.S. consulate guard who was wounded by a sniper's bullet while driving an official American car.

In a letter to U.S. consul-general John J. MacDonald, Dr. Joseph explained that the American was hit in an area where Jewish troops were replying to heavy Arab fire which took the lives of several Jews and wounded a number of others, including some children. His letter emphasized that "if there will be no Arab sniping, there will be no Jewish reply."

POTENTIALITY OF COUP IN JERUSALEM REPORTED BY U.N. MEDIATOR TO SECURITY COUNCIL

LAKE SUCCESS, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Count Folke Bernadotte, U.N. mediator for Palestine, today informed the Security Council by cable that the situation in Jerusalem remains tense and that "there are rumors of impending coups by irregular elements which are alleged to be uncontrollable or to be used as spearheads of regular forces."

The U.N. mediator emphasized that "the demilitarization of Jerusalem as recommended by the Security Council would best remedy this tense situation." He added that he is flying from Rhodes today to Jerusalem in order to continue his talks with the Jews and Arabs for the demilitarization of the city. "Pending results of the conversations, I shall continue, with the assistance of the truce commission, my effort to relieve the tension in the city by promoting as far as possible the conclusion of arrangements on specific points," he reported.

Food convoys for the relief of the Jewish population of Jerusalem have been resumed under U.N. supervision and efforts are being continued to reestablish the supply of water, Bernadotte informed the Security Council. However, he added that "opposition on the Arab side to measures calculated to afford relief to the Jewish population of Jerusalem is increasing." He attributed this development "to the bitterness caused by the plight of Arab refugees in Palestine and neighboring countries and the unwillingness of Jewish authorities to cooperate in this matter."

Reporting on the general situation in Palestine, the mediator said that on a government level both the Jews and the Arabs wish to continue the truce. "Compliance with its provisions must, however, in the circumstances, depend to a large extent on an adequate system of supervision," he pointed out. He appealed for additional military observers to make the supervision of the truce more effective.

"An effective supervision system of the truce is all the more necessary as there are signs of tension resulting from the lack of trust in the good faith of the other parties and from the fear that hostilities may shortly be resumed despite the truce ordered by the Security Council," Bernadotte pointed out. He drew attention to the fact that public statements by Arab and Jewish leaders have recently indicated that their governments might, as a consequence of alleged violations by the other parties, take such military action as they thought fit.

Neither Jews Nor Arabs Can End Truce Unilaterally, Bernadotte Warns

In order not to permit any breaking of the truce until a peaceful adjustment of the future situation in Palestine is reached, the mediator, prior to his leaving Rhodes today, issued instructions to the U.N. observers which make it clear that "no party may unilaterally put an end to the truce."

The instructions emphasize that "no party may take the law into its own hands and decree that it is relieved of its obligations under the truce resolution of the Security Council because in its opinion the other party has violated the truce." The orders point out that "only the Security Council is competent to decide what measures should be taken against the violator of the truce" and should either party resume hostilities under any circumstances it would act against the decision of the Security Council.

"If one party finds itself under unprovoked attack, it should limit its self-defence to operations necessary to repulse such attack pending action by United Nations observers," Bernadotte's instructions state "such observers shall recall to the parties concerned the terms of the truce. Any refusal to comply with these terms, particularly by refusing to issue a cease-fire order or to take the necessary measures indicated by the observers for putting an end to the breach of the truce, shall be reported by the observers. Whatever the result of operations undertaken in self-defence, the status quo ante shall be restored."

100 JEWS REPORTEDLY FLEE FROM CYPRUS CAMP TO ISRAEL; BRITISH DEMOLISH SECRET TUNNEL

FAMAGUSTA, Cyprus, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- British engineers today blew up a secret tunnel which was elaborately constructed by Jewish detainees here in an effort to escape from their detention camps and reach Israel. The demolition of the tunnel occurred after the British had previously pumped 340,000 gallons of water into the subterranean passage without wrecking it.

The tunnel--80 yards long and two feet wide--had been completed only two days before it was discovered last week. It ran under the barbed wire surrounding one camp to a point well beyond the guard perimeter. The detainees had wired the tunnel with electric light with current obtained from a searchlight tower. British authorities believe that it took the Jews six months to dig the tunnel. Twenty-nine refugees were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, ranging up to nine months, when the passage was discovered last week.

It was reliably estimated here today that at least 100 Jewish detainees succeeded in escaping from Cyprus last week. British officials on the island voiced the opinion that Jewish representatives outside the camps, stationed in Cyprus, but who are in radio contact with Israel, are attempting to help "selected male specialists among the refugees" to escape on small boats which are brought near the Cyprus coast at night. Such boats can reach Israel from Cyprus in about 24 hours.

Jewish leaders here say that the British have greatly overestimated the possibilities of escape. Two battalions of British troops maintain a continuous guard over the camps, while the Cyprus police vigilantly examine buses and cars, searching for escapees. The Royal Air Force also maintains patrols looking for such vessels.

Jews to Test Legality of Cyprus Law on Detainees

The Jews are planning to test the constitutionality of the island's law passed two years ago covering escaping detainees. The legal basis of the test will be whether the government is competent to detain the Jews since the end of the British Mandate in Palestine on May 15, whether the Jews here are Israeli citizens and, if so, whether the British can legally detain citizens of another state trying to reach that state.

The Jews still protest violently that the British are separating families by sending only women and children to Israel, but Americans working in the camps, representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee, estimate that not more than 200 husbands and wives have been separated. The camps have approximately three males to one female. Many of the wives refuse to go to Israel without their husbands.

Last week the one hundredth Jewish baby was born on Cyprus and many more are due soon. Many expectant mothers refuse to go to the hospital until the last minute, hoping that the baby will be born in Israel. American representatives say that morale among the detainees is at the lowest of any time during the past two years because the Jews have no idea of their ultimate fate. To offset this, Jewish teachers have been sent from Israel to conduct classes and enlarge the recreation facilities.

FIRST ISRAEL VESSEL LANDS AT TURKISH PORT; LOADS CARGO FOR JEWISH STATE

ISTANBUL, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- The first Israeli vessel to dock at a Turkish port arrived here over the week-end and began immediately to load a cargo of Turkish goods. The arrival of the S.S. Atid was hailed in both Jewish and Turkish circles and the hope was voiced that trade relations between this country and Israel would expand in the near future.

AUSTRIAN DP PARLEY URGES JEWS NOT TO RETURN TO POLAND; CALLS FOR AID TO SURINAM PROJECT

LINZ, Austria, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- A resolution urging displaced Jews in Europe to "think profoundly" and wait before deciding to return to Poland was adopted here at the two-day country-wide conference of the Austrian Refugee Freeland League. Twenty-two delegates, claiming to represent 3,000 displaced Jews in nine camps in Austria who are affiliated with the League, participated in the parley.

Emphasizing that the displaced Jews have been "thrown into utter despair" by the American DP immigration law "which practically excludes the Jewish displaced persons," the resolution appealed to Jewish communities in Latin America, South Africa and Australia to support the "liquidation of the camps in Germany, Austria and Italy" and stressed that the "Surinam project must be realized in the near future because it is our hope for a new and peaceful life."

The realization of the Surinam project--which provides for the resettlement of 30,000 refugee Jews on the Dutch island in the West Indies--"can in no way be looked on as a rivalry or hindrance to Israel," the conference resolution said. It greeted the Jewish state and declared that "Israel must become the outpost in the struggle for life of Jewish communities throughout the world."

In a special appeal to American Jewry, the Refugee Freeland League called upon the Joint Distribution Committee, HIAS, the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Labor Committee to "join immediately in the effort for beginning the immigration to and the colonization of Surinam." The appeal warned that unless a "united and earnest effort is made to dissolve the DP camps, the demoralization of the Jews in them will increase to such an extent that for years to come it will not be possible to ameliorate this situation."

J.D.C. DIRECTOR ARRIVES IN ISRAEL TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES OF MASS IMMIGRATION

TEL AVIV, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Asserting that he is "convinced that 10,000 Jews can be absorbed monthly into Israel for the next two years," Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, European director of the Joint Distribution Committee, who arrived here today, told a press conference that his primary purpose for coming to Israel at this time was to investigate the possibilities of mass immigration.

"One of the primary purposes in establishing Israel was to provide a home for the displaced persons," he said. "Now we have come here to discuss the necessary arrangements with the Provisional Government of Israel." He added that the "job of the J.D.C. is to pay for the transportation of the DP's to Israel."

Dr. Schwartz reported that "750,000 Jews in Europe--and the majority of the displaced Jews--are anxiously awaiting the possibility to emigrate to Israel." Pointing out that more than 30,000 Jews have arrived in Israel since the Jewish state was proclaimed, Dr. Schwartz said a plan has been worked out to bring into Israel 10,000 immigrants monthly which will cost, in transportation alone, \$1,250,000 per month.

Citing his visit to Cyprus a few days ago, Dr. Schwartz said that "while the displaced Jews in Germany, Austria and Italy move about freely, the 13,000 Jews in Cyprus are virtual prisoners behind barbed wire." He revealed that U.N. Palestine mediator Count Folke Bernadotte told a J.D.C. representative on the island that he had no objection to the immigration of the Cyprus detainees to Israel, but said that the British refused to allow their departure.

The J.D.C. European director pointed to the fact that although 51,000 Jews arrived in Israel since Jan. 1 of this year, the International Refugee Organization, which should have assisted in moving the DP's, refused to do so, explaining that Israel was at war and some I.R.O. members have not recognized Israel." Therefore, Dr. Schwartz declared, "the J.D.C. is forced, but prepared to carry the burden alone. The Joint Distribution Committee spends \$6,000,000 monthly in Europe, 90 percent of which is contributed by American Jewry," he added.

ANTI-SEMITIC AGITATION IN ARGENTINE PROVINCE REPORTED; INCIDENTS RIFE IN SCHOOLS

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- A report that anti-Semitic agitation is rife in the city of Santa Fe, capital of the province of the same name, and that "anti-Jewish propaganda is poisoning the atmosphere" of the city, which has a Jewish population of close to 4,000, was published here today in the leading Jewish newspaper, Die Yiddische Zeitung.

The paper noted that nearly all the main thoroughfares in the city are plastered with violent anti-Semitic inscriptions. The report cited the case of three Jewish girls who attend a Santa Fe high school who were recently ordered by their teacher to stand before their classmates while she castigated them with anti-Semitic remarks.

Asserting that instances of overt anti-Semitism in Santa Fe's schools are not isolated cases, the newspaper stresses that similar occurrences are taking place frequently in most other cities of the province.

PROPOSAL TO USE UNFILED U.S. IMMIGRATION QUOTAS MADE BY B'NAI B'RITH SPOKESMAN

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- A proposal to utilize unused immigration quotas and the institution of a system which would permit the monthly carry-over of unfilled quotas was made here today by Abram Orlow, an immigration law authority, who presented his proposal as a spokesman for B'nai B'rith at a hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee's immigration subcommittee.

"The benefits of such a system are patent," Orlow stated. "First it would insure full utilization of existing quotas. Secondly, it would take into account the factor of demand for visas in the various countries. Thirdly, it would tend to end the absurd system under which many would-be immigrants meeting all the tests of the 1917 Immigration Act are compelled to wait many years because their country's quota has been exhausted."

He advocated the creation of a federal "Court of Immigration Appeals" and of a single government agency which would combine immigration and visa-granting functions. "Under the existing system," he said, "there is no procedure to assure a fair and impartial determination on questions of fact affecting the immigration status of an applicant for admission to this country. A statutory Court of Immigration Appeals would fill this gap and insure fair and impartial treatment of all would-be immigrants," he said.

DR. LEO FRANKLIN, HONORED DETROIT RABBI AND CIVIC LEADER, DIES AT AGE OF 78

DETROIT, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Dr. Leo Franklin, rabbi emeritus of Temple Beth El and outstanding civic leader in Michigan, who died here yesterday at the age of 78. Dr. Franklin was said to have been the first rabbi to introduce the system of unassigned seats in Reformed Temples in this country.

A native of Cambridge City, Ind., Dr. Franklin became rabbi of Temple Beth El in 1889, a post he held until his retirement in 1941. He established the Jewish Student Congregation at the University of Michigan, the first of its kind in the United States. His efforts to create a spirit of understanding among Jews, Protestants and Catholics were recognized by the University of Detroit, a Jesuit institution which conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. He held trusteeships in many organizations and for many years toured Michigan, establishing congregations in small towns.

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