

Thursday, August 12, 1948

JTA *Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

LAST MINUTE NEWS

JERUSALEM TO HAVE NORMAL WATER SUPPLY WITHIN 48 HOURS, U.N. MEDIATOR PREDICTS

HAIFA, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- The water supply for Jerusalem, coming from the coastal plain via the Latrun pumping station, will begin to flow within 48 hours, Count Folke Bernadotte predicted here late today, following his arrival from Latrun. The Latrun pumping station, which up to now has been entirely in Arab hands, will be supervised by U.N. officials, he said. Bernadotte expects to return to Sweden at the end of the week.

(In Jerusalem, a spokesman for Israeli Military Governor Dr. Dov Joseph said that he expects the city to have a normal water supply within a few days. Jewish engineers, he revealed, were preparing to leave for Latrun today to expedite the repair of pumping facilities there. It is not expected that water will be rationed after the supply becomes normalized.)

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ARAB FORCES LAUNCH FIVE-HOUR ATTACK ON ISRAELI POSITIONS; FIERCE BATTLE IN JERUSALEM

TEL AVIV, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Arab forces, believed to be Iraqis, made a five-hour attack today against the Jewish-held village of Dir Addas, near Magdiel, in the Sharon Valley. The assault, which was beaten off, was directed from the Arab-held town of Qalqilia, 15 miles northwest of Tel Aviv.

One Jewish soldier was killed, two were wounded, while an unknown number of casualties were inflicted on Transjordan Arab Legion units when a fierce battle developed early today in the area of Mount Zion in Jerusalem.

An official Israel Army statement said that Arab units, using automatic weapons and mortars from positions inside Jerusalem's Old City, opened up with heavy fire against the Jews and began advancing on Israeli positions on Mount Zion. Jewish troops replied with "vigorous fire" and beat off the attacking formations, the statement said.

The firing continued intermittently until late morning, but the area was pronounced quiet around noon. The din of exploding three-inch mortar shells and crackling machine gun fire which could be heard throughout Jerusalem kept the city's residents tense.

Israeli Military Governor of Jerusalem Dr. Dov Joseph reported the battle to United Nations truce observers, claiming that the Arabs were responsible for initiating a further violation of the cease-fire.

50 U.N. Observers Arrive In Jerusalem; Jews Smash British Consul Car

The Arab attack in Jerusalem took place despite the "reminder" addressed yesterday by U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte to the Jewish and Arab military authorities in the city that they "are responsible for applying the truce" in their respective areas and for the suppression of sniping and attacks whether by regular or irregular troops. This "reminder" was followed up with conferences which the mediator held this morning with Dov Joseph, Israeli Military Governor, and in the afternoon, with the Arab area commander.

Today Bernadotte announced the arrival of 50 more United Nations observers and expressed the hope that the uneasy truce situation in Jerusalem will be improved. "If the situation does not improve, it will be necessary to report to the Security Council, which is empowered to take effective measures regarding truce violations," he informed the Israeli and Arab authorities.

A car belonging to the British consulate-general in Jerusalem, which today entered the Jewish area of Jerusalem, was smashed by a group of young armed Jews, presumably belonging to a dissident organization. This is the first time that a car flying the Union Jack came into the Jewish area. Israeli military police arrived on the scene quickly and began an immediate investigation. British vice-consul Frederick Bestall, who was inside a bank at the time, was unhurt, and military police escorted him back to the consulate.

ISRAEL EXPECTED TO REJECT MEDIATOR'S REQUEST THAT JEWS EVACUATE THREE ARAB VILLAGES

TEL AVIV, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- The Provisional Government of Israel is expected to turn down a demand by U.N. Palestine mediator Count Folke Bernadotte that Israeli forces holding three villages overlooking the Latrun-Ramallah road be evacuated by the Jews. The mediator made this demand after visiting the disputed area today.

An Israeli Government spokesman said today that prior to the beginning of the second U.N. truce, the Israeli Army occupied several hills overlooking the Latrun-Ramallah road, near Elqubab, which led the Arabs in the villages of Ajanjul, Hirbat and Buweira to withdraw from the sector.

Recently, the spokesman said, the U.N. observers ordered the Jews to permit the villagers to return to their homes. The Jews said at first that such a step could not be ordered, but later -- the spokesman said -- acting on humanitarian grounds, the Israelis agreed to permit the Arabs to return. The U.N. truce officials lauded the Jews for this action, the spokesman added.

This morning, Count Bernadotte, while making an on-the-spot investigation, demanded that the Jews evacuate the villages. He warned that he would report the matter to the Security Council if they did not comply with his request. Bernadotte's formal letter regarding the matter is expected to be in Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok's hands later in the day.

Although the government has not formally refused to agree to the mediator's request, it is expected that it will be flatly rejected for three reasons: first, because all positions occupied before the truce became effective were conceded to be in the victor's hands by the U.N.; second, such a move would place the Israelis at a disadvantage in the strategic sense; thirdly, if the United Nations intends to take a "get-tough" policy, the Israelis feel that the Egyptians -- who are continuously violating the truce -- should be the first to be dealt with.

According to a government informant, it is understood that the Arab Legion is not permitting the residents of the three disputed villages to return to their homes until the hills themselves are evacuated by the Jews. The entire question is not expected to affect the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem convoys proceeding along the main highway, the first of which is scheduled to go to Jerusalem tomorrow.

U.S. ENGINEERS WORKING IN TEL AVIV ON PLAN FOR A DEEP HARBOR, MAYOR REVEALS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Work on a deep harbor for Tel Aviv will begin within six months, Mayor Israel Rokach announced today. He disclosed that engineers from the United States had been working on plans since March.

Originally, he explained, the project had only provided for enlarging the existing lighter facilities but the Israeli Government has now determined on a more ambitious program and will go ahead with plans to permit Tel Aviv to handle ocean-going craft. Details of the project are now being blue-printed, he said, and dredging and other operations will start before next spring.

ISRAEL TO INCREASE NUMBER OF ARAB POLICE; OPENS SCHOOLS FOR ARAB CHILDREN

TEL AVIV, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Increasing numbers of Arab police officers will be used to maintain order in the Arab districts of Israel as soon as circumstances permit, Police Inspector Shitreet announced today. He said that police stations have been opened in Jaffa and Nazareth under Jewish command but staffed by Arab police.

The Government also announced today that secondary schools for Arab children would be opened in Jaffa in September.

GRANTING OF \$100,000,000 LOAN TO ISRAEL UNDER CONSIDERATION, SECRETARY MARSHALL SAYS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- The matter of extending a \$100,000,000 Export-Import Bank loan to Israel is under very exhaustive consideration by the U.S. Government, Secretary of State George C. Marshall said today.

Asked at a press conference what the State Department's attitude is toward granting the loan, Secretary Marshall said the Department is considering the point of view brought forward by the directors of the Export-Import Bank.

He pointed out that Israel is not the only country now seeking a loan from the Bank. Several applications are now before the Bank, he said, and all, including Israel, will have to meet the same conditions to qualify for the loan.

A spokesman for the Export-Import Bank declined to state what the "point of view" of the Bank's board of directors is with regard to a possible loan to Israel. He said merely that an application, in the form of a letter giving details of proposed uses for the loan, had been received by the Bank but "has not been acted upon."

JEWISH STATE MAY APPLY THIS MONTH FOR U.N. MEMBERSHIP, ISRAELI OFFICIAL REVEALS

LAKE SUCCESS, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- An Israeli spokesman revealed here today that the Jewish state will apply for early membership in the United Nations. The formal application will be filed soon with the U.N. Secretariat, possibly in time for consideration by the Security Council before it adjourns its Lake Success sessions on August 21.

Under the rules of procedure, an application for membership is subject to approval by two-thirds of the U.N. General Assembly, but only after having it has obtained a majority of at least seven votes in the 11-nation Security Council.

PALESTINE TO HAVE 300 MILITARY OBSERVERS FROM U.S., FRANCE, BELGIUM WITHIN ONE WEEK

LAKE SUCCESS, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- United Nations headquarters here today received a message from the U.N. mediator's headquarters in Palestine reporting that an estimated 300 military observers from the United States, France and Belgium will have arrived in Palestine by August 18. They will be dispatched to both Arab and Jewish territory, the message said.

Immediate plans, which are subject to change as more observers arrive, call for 64 observers in Israel areas and 101 in Arab areas. In addition, seven observers will be assigned to the Jerusalem - Tel Aviv convoy, 50 will be equally divided between the Arab and Jewish zones of Jerusalem, and a staff of 37 will serve at U.N. truce control headquarters in Haifa.

EGYPTIANS CHARGED WITH FATAL STONING OF U.S. JEW WILL FACE TRIAL IN CAIRO

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- The trial of persons suspected of having committed the murder of Stephen Haas, prominent Jewish community leader of Philadelphia, in Cairo last month will begin shortly, the State Department disclosed today on the basis of information received for the U.S. delegation in Cairo.

Haas was stoned to death by a Cairo mob on July 18. The U.S. Government sent a note of protest to the Egyptian Government, asking why the police failed to intervene "promptly and effectively" to prevent his death. The Egyptian Government has not yet replied officially to the note. As far as the U.S. is concerned "the matter is not closed," a Department spokesman said.

NEW YORK, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- "The failure of the Arab armies to win quickly in Palestine in the first phase of fighting in May and June destroyed any chance of Arab victory, if not permanently, at least for some years to come," Hanson W. Baldwin, military expert of the New York Times, declared today in an article analyzing the stalemate in the Palestine fighting.

The history of the fighting in Palestine, Baldwin says, clearly shows in retrospect "that the Arabs led from weakness and not from strength, that they sent a boy to do a man's job and that stalemate and frustration are now, therefore, their resultant lot." He expressed the opinion that the Arab war plan was "somewhat faulty and uncoordinated in concept and poorly executed."

Declaring that the Arab leaders who had done so much to "whip up the wild mare of passion and prejudice" against the Jews have now become to some extent prisoners of their own people, the military analyst emphasizes that the Arab populations, stimulated by exaggerated accounts of the Palestine "victories," wanted more "victories" and resented the present truce.

"There is not much doubt, in retrospect, that the Zionists benefited most from the truce," Baldwin says. "Over a good part of several continents their purchasing agents were busy and supplies started to flow toward Palestine at an accelerated rate. Zionist factories in Palestine had time to match supply to demand and to build up reserves. The Zionists have been manufacturing in Palestine 'Piats,' a British-designed anti-tank weapon; Sten guns or sub-machine guns, mortars, and small arms ammunition, and the truce gave them an opportunity to intensify production of these weapons. More trucks were converted with armor plate into improvised armored cars and the Zionists added at least two light tanks to their weapons."

"About the time the truce ended the world-wide purchasing system of the Zionists commenced to produce results; field artillery - one of the Haganah's greatest needs - reached Palestine, as did Messerschmitt fighter aircraft, manufactured in Czechoslovakia, and other planes and equipment from elsewhere. The Arabs too, reinforced their troops and increased their supplies, but the Zionists outstripped them," he concluded.

MISSION OF 250,000 IMMIGRANTS YEARLY URGED BY ISRAELI IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL

TEL AVIV, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Israel must receive 250,000 immigrants a year, Eliahu Dobkin, head of the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency, told the 1st meeting of the Council of the Histadruth here today. The Council is holding its first meeting since the proclamation of Israeli statehood.

Dr. Chaim Hoffman, Jewish Agency representative in Germany, stressed the urgency of immediate immigration into Israel of Jews from Europe and said that time should not be wasted in economic planning for absorption and resettlement of immigrants but all efforts should be concentrated on the largest immigration within the shortest time.

Joseph Frumkin, Histadruth economic expert, outlined a project for the absorption of another 100,000 immigrants within a year and called on the Histadruth to send envoys to Europe to train prospective immigrants for settlement here. He said that 13,000 recent immigrants had settled in Haifa, bringing the Jewish population of that city to 95,000. Future arrivals, he stated, will be settled in Tiberias and Safad, in Galilee and a large proportion in Jerusalem. He called for a gigantic housing scheme for the country's anticipated immigrants and proposed a worldwide campaign to raise the millions of dollars necessary to finance this.

The Council voted the equivalent of \$500,000 from Histadruth funds for assistance in resettling immigrants and adopted a resolution proclaiming that "our gates must remain open to the largest possible immigration."

RUMANIA NATIONALIZES ALL SCHOOLS; CONSIDERS JEWISH CURRICULUM FOR SOME SCHOOLS

BUCHAREST, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- The Rumanian Government issued a decree today stating that all schools belonging to religious communities in Rumania, private persons, foreign governments or foreign organizations are nationalized. The decree ordered that all property and equipment belonging to those schools be taken over by the government and that all faculty members come under the government's jurisdiction.

It was learned authoritatively that the government will soon establish a variety of schools for Jews wherever it may be found necessary to introduce a partly Jewish curriculum in those schools having a given number of Jewish students.

GERMAN MAYOR SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT; OTHERS DOOMED FOR CRIMES AGAINST JEWS

MUNICH, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- Richard Haenel, former mayor of Ansbach during the Nazi regime, and Gestapo leader August Reutelshofer, were sentenced by a Nuremberg court to nine and two months imprisonment respectively, it was announced here today. The two were charged with instigating the notorious anti-Semitic riots of November, 1938, in Ansbach, and of robbing and burning the local synagogue. Twelve other defendants who participated in the pogrom were acquitted.

A U.S. Army spokesman revealed yesterday that two German civilians -- Rudolph Gabler, 21, and Ferdinand Lechner, 25 -- were executed by a U.S. firing squad for murdering a displaced Jew traveling by rail from Munich to Garmisch. The Jew was said to have been preoccupied with his prayers at the time of the attack, which occurred last week.

In Regensburg, Ludwig Maenner, former police inspector, was sentenced this week to four years at hard labor for participating in the November, 1938, anti-Jewish riots. In Hamburg, Emma Marie Zimmer, formerly in charge of the women's section of a concentration camp, and Gestapo guard Ida Schreiter, were sentenced to death for sending Jewish internees to the gas chambers and crematoria in Poland during the war.

VALUABLE COLLECTION OF JEWISH BOOKS HIDDEN DURING NAZI REGIME FOUND INTACT IN POLAND

WARSAW, Aug. 11. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Poland was heartened today by an official announcement stating that every Jewish book, periodical and newspaper that appeared in this country between 1928-1939 -- in Polish, Yiddish and Hebrew -- has been found intact in the archives of the Polish National Library. More than 2,000 bound volumes of 240 Jewish newspapers and periodicals alone were discovered in good condition, the announcement said.

Many Jewish authors who survived the Nazi regime and whose works were destroyed during the war may now be seen sitting in the Library copying from their own books. The discovery of these priceless volumes was made by M. Bernstein, well-known Jewish cultural leader. It was explained that the volumes were saved from destruction at the hands of the Nazis by library staff workers who, when war broke out, falsely labelled the books as "Germanica" and "Polonica."

Prior to the war, every newspaper, magazine and book publisher in Poland was compelled to send to the National Library a copy of every publication he turned out. These copies form the bulk of the National Library's Jewish collection. The Library's present volumes of Judaica comprise the only complete source of information for historians and scholars in Poland. Library employees are now busy cataloguing all the Jewish volumes and hope in the near future to bring order to the entire collection.