

Friday, August 13, 1948

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

ARABS BLAST LATRUN PUMPING STATION; JEWS PROTEST TO U.N., WARN OF "GRAVE CONSEQUENCES"

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- The Latrun pumping station which was to begin supplying the Jews in Jerusalem with water under the supervision of the United Nations, was blasted today several hours after U.N. observers took it over from the Arabs, following the statement made by U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte yesterday, predicting that water for Jerusalem via this station "will begin to flow within 48 hours."

Immediately after the news of the blast became known, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok lodged a strong protest with Bernadotte and emphasized that the explosion constitutes "a most glaring breach of the truce, fraught with the gravest consequences." He also issued orders countermanning previous permission given to unarmed Arab villagers to return to their villages in the Latrun area.

Shertok also recalled an order issued last night by the Israeli Government calling for the withdrawal of Israeli units from the Arab villages of Buweira and Ajnjul, in the Latrun area. The U.N. mediator late today announced that as a result of the wrecking of the Latrun station he has cancelled his request to the Israeli authorities to evacuate these two Arab villages.

U.N. Representatives Launch Investigation; Israel Demands Sanctions

The vital pumping station, which was expected to be back in operation today and which would have assured the 100,000 Jews in Jerusalem of a virtually unlimited supply of water, was dynamited by a group of seven mufti-clad men. U.N. observers who witnessed the explosion said that at first indications the blast appeared to be the work of Arab irregulars. Because of the pre-dawn darkness, the U.N. officials said they could see only "vague forms." A full investigation, ordered by the U.N. headquarters in Haifa, is at present under way. Most of the machinery in the station was badly damaged.

Israel Government circles assume that the Arabs will charge that irregulars blew up and set fire to the station, but Jewish engineers pointed out today that at least a half-ton of explosives would have been required for the job, and that that quantity could not have been brought to the site without some knowledge by responsible Arab authorities.

Commenting on the explosion, a government spokesman declared today: "The Provisional Government of Israel takes the most serious view of this Arab action against the United Nations authority. The explosion occurred almost in the presence of the mediator, who was there yesterday, and who assured us repeatedly of the Arab Legion's good will."

"You'll see, you'll get your water, wait another day," he told us," the spokesman continued. "Since the truce became effective, the Latrun pumping station has been U.N. territory. Yesterday, the United Nations assured that not only Arabs

but U.N. personnel were present in the area. We consider those who are feeding us false assurances as bearing a grievous responsibility," he said.

"Since the truce began, 100,000 Jerusalem Jews have been without water despite the guarantees of the U.N. The mediator termed the Legion's refusal to allow us to bring in water a serious breach of the truce, but we patiently accepted repeated delays, relying on the mediator's assurances that the matter would be remedied," he said.

Replying to correspondents' questions, the spokesman said that Israel expects the United Nations to apply sanctions against this "glaring breach of the truce." A report on the bombing has been sent to the U.N. Security Council. Major Locket, a British officer commanding the Arab Legion in the Latrun area, has been approached by the U.N. investigators and asked for information.

ISRAEL PROPOSES TO U.N. MEDIATOR EXCHANGE OF ARAB AND JEWISH PRISONERS OF WAR

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- An exchange of Israeli and Arab war prisoners was formally proposed today to U.N. Palestine mediator Count Folke Bernadotte by the Israel Government. There are approximately 5,000 Arab POW's in Jewish hands while the number of Jews imprisoned by the Arabs is estimated at 850.

It was officially learned today that Count Bernadotte has conveyed the Israeli plan to the Arab Governments, but there has as yet been no reply from them. Israel is prepared to meet Arab representatives on the island of Rhodes to work out the necessary details of such an exchange. The proposal was made conditional on a clause in the Geneva convention regarding the conduct of warfare which prohibits the use of exchanged POW's for military duties.

Ihud, the organization here seeking a bi-national Jewish-Arab state, which is headed by Dr. J.L. Magnes, today issued a statement calling upon the Arab states to accept the Israeli offer for direct peace talks. At the same time, the group called upon the Israeli Government to declare its readiness to discuss the situation of the Arab refugees and of their return to their homes in Palestine. Reuters reported from Cairo that the Arab League rejected the Israeli invitation to open direct peace negotiations.

JAMES McDONALD, U.S. ENVOY TO ISRAEL, GREETED BY CROWDS UPON ARRIVAL IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- U.S. special representative to the state of Israel James G. McDonald arrived today and was loudly cheered by a large crowd that gathered outside the seaside Gat Rimon Hotel, which will serve as headquarters for both the American and Russian diplomatic missions to the Jewish state.

At a meeting with the press, McDonald, replying to a correspondent's question as to whether he had brought any message from President Truman, said: "In a way, I am the message." Regarding the question of United States de jure recognition of Israel, McDonald said: "We will see in the course of actual developments."

"Presumably the President knew my record when he appointed me for this job," he stated. "I never represented my government before and now I am not as free as previously. I am deeply touched by the friendliness of this reception -- I feel at home," he said. He told of his recent meeting with the Pope in Rome and revealed that they discussed the Holy Places in Jerusalem. The U.S. envoy expects to confer with Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok tomorrow. He spent the last few days in Switzerland, where he met with Israeli President Dr. Chaim Weizmann.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT REPORTS TO U.N. ON SITUATION OF DISPLACED JEWS IN EUROPE

LAKE SUCCESS, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government, in a statement submitted today to the U.N. Security Council on the situation of displaced Jews in Europe and of Arab refugees in countries neighboring Palestine, estimated that there are still today about 250,000 displaced persons of Jewish nationality in Europe who must depend on Jewish aid for their support.

"The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee expends nearly \$2,000,000 every month for their maintenance, relief, vocational training, education and other requirements," the statement emphasized. "Despite this vast expenditure, three years after the war these persons remain utterly uprooted and frustrated, living the degrading life of camp inmates and social outcasts, for the most part in places evoking tragic memories of the mass slaughter of their kith and kin and amidst a population which is only prevented by the presence of Allied occupation armies from venting an inveterate hatred against the Jews."

Reporting that since the proclamation of Israeli statehood on May 14, the Jewish state has absorbed 28,551 immigrants, the memorandum said that the Israeli Government has decided to continue, and even enlarge, this rate of absorption during the coming months and year. "The economy of the state of Israel is urgently in need of working hands -- for existing agricultural settlements, industrial enterprises and public works, as well as for the execution of a comprehensive development program in the coming years," the memorandum pointed out.

Estimating the number of Arab refugees in Palestine and the neighboring countries at about 300,000, the Israeli Government stressed in its memorandum that most of them left Palestine partly in obedience to direct orders by local Arab military commanders and partly as a result of the panic campaign conducted among Palestinian Arabs by the leaders of the aggressor states.

"In the view of the Provisional Government of Israel, the responsibility for providing immediate relief for the Arab refugees should primarily be borne by the Arab states," the memorandum stated. "Only when the aggressors are ready to conclude peace with Israel can the refugee question in its entirety come up for a permanent constructive solution as part of the general peace settlement and with due regard to Jewish counterclaims for the destruction of life and property caused by Arab aggression as well as to the position of Jewish communities in Arab countries and other relevant considerations."

The memorandum complained that the food rations provided by British authorities to the approximately 11,000 Jewish detainees in Cyprus are "utterly inadequate." It protested against the lawless detention by the British of the Jewish refugees in the camps on Cyprus.

U.N. MEDIATOR INFORMS SECURITY COUNCIL OF HIS LATEST CEASE-FIRE ORDER EFFECTIVE TODAY

LAKE SUCCESS, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- U.N. Palestine mediator Count Folke Bernadotte today alerted the United Nations to the possibility that he may ask the Security Council to take vigorous action against the breach of his latest cease-fire order, which is to become effective at 2 a.m. tomorrow, New York time.

In a cable to the Secretary-General confirming his new deadline issued to both sides for a new cease-fire, the Count says he has already received Arab agreement to his latest demand for the cessation of hostilities and adds that the Jewish reply is expected tomorrow. He strongly hints that failure of the Jews to comply would be the basis for establishing the right and the wrong in the situation in Jerusalem.

FRENCH JEWS INTERNED IN EGYPT DECLARE HUNGER STRIKE AFTER EMBASSY FAILS TO FREE THEM

PARIS, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- Eighteen French Jews interned in Egypt as a result of anti-Jewish sentiments in the country today launched a hunger strike in protest against their detention. The internees acted after the French Embassy failed after repeated attempts to obtain their release.

(Last week, a well-informed Israeli leader estimated the number of Jews interned in Egyptian concentration camps at 3,000.)

ISRAELI FINANCE MINISTER WARNS AGAINST CURRENCY SPECULATION AND RISE IN PRICE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- Declaring that there is no reason for speculation in currency, nor for the rising prices in the state of Israel, Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan today told a Chamber of Commerce meeting here today that the new Israeli currency will not be worse than the Palestine currency now in circulation.

Kaplan also emphasized that the Provisional Government of Israel is determined to hold elections as soon as possible to assure the establishment of a government based on democratic principles.

SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE IN TEL AVIV WILL TOUR MILITARY FRONTS IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- The Soviet diplomatic mission to Israel will soon set up an office for its military attache who is expected to make a tour of the Jewish and Arab fronts, it was reported here today.

Minister Pavel Yershov conferred with Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok this morning and pledged that the Soviet Union will continue to back the U.N. General Assembly's original Palestine partition decision at the forthcoming Paris meeting.

BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE DENIES ARMY TRANSFERRED MILITARY SUPPLIES TO ARABS FROM RAFA

LONDON, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- A British Foreign Office spokesman denied today that any military supplies were turned over to Arab forces from a British supply depot in Rafa. "An investigation established," he maintained, "that all that was transferred to the Arabs was clothing, chiefly underwear."

The Foreign Office official noted that the British Government was never informed of the alleged complaint to U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok against the reported transfer of British military stores to the Arabs. He said he was simply replying to repeated questions to the Foreign Office emanating from newspaper correspondents.

HOPE THAT FRENCH GOVT. WILL RECOGNIZE ISRAEL SOON VOICED BY DR. SILVER IN PARIS

PARIS, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- The hope that the French Government would recognize the state of Israel before the U.N. General Assembly meets here next month was voiced here today at a press conference by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, who is en route to Tel Aviv to attend the forthcoming sessions of the Zionist Actions Committee.

Asserting that "the whole problem of the Arab refugees is a sad by-product of the over-all problem," Dr. Silver charged that the majority of the displaced Arabs now living in countries along Israel's frontiers were encouraged and aided to leave the Jewish state by the British.

BAVARIAN PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES DESECRATION OF JEWISH CEMETERIES; AUTHORITIES CRITICIZED

MUNICH, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- Desecration of Jewish cemeteries in Bavaria was the subject of heated discussion in the Bavarian Parliament today. Revealing that attacks have been made on 25 Jewish burial places in the province to date, Interior Minister Dr. William Ankermaier asserted that all German police units have been instructed to be especially vigilant in guarding the Jewish cemeteries.

Both the Christian Democratic and Social Democratic deputies in Parliament sharply criticized the authorities for laxness and indifference in not halting the attacks up to now. One Social Democrat, Arno Behrlich, claimed that the cemetery attacks were directed by an underground organization active throughout Germany.

Speaking in behalf of the Liberal Democratic Party, Deputy Otto Betzold urged the government to institute a program to educate German youths in the province in tolerance. He pointed out that "children who dishonor and destroy Jewish cemeteries will be capable, sooner or later, of destroying our democracy."

MAJOR WAR CRIMINAL RESPONSIBLE FOR MURDER OF 100,000 POLISH JEWS GETS DEATH SENTENCE

WARSAW, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- Friedrich Kuczynski, who during the Nazi occupation of Poland was assigned the job of liquidating the entire Jewish population of Upper Silesia, was sentenced to death in the Sosnowice district court for responsibility for the murder of more than 100,000 Polish Jews.

The accused succeeded in escaping from Poland after the war ended and spent several months in Germany. When he was apprehended by the U.S. Army authorities, he was returned to this country to stand trial as one of the major war criminals.

At the same time, Kondrat Scheifol was sentenced by the same court to life imprisonment for robbing and torturing numerous Jews from the Sosnowice region. Gestapo chief Bernard Lel received the death sentence from a Lublin court this week for participating in a pogrom in that city's Ghetto during the war. He was convicted specifically of murdering 15 inmates of a Lublin home for Jewish aged.

ONLY 60,000 DISPLACED PERSONS CAN ENTER U.S. THIS YEAR, OFFICIAL SAYS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- An estimated 50,000 to 60,000 displaced persons could enter the United States during the first year of the immigration program scheduled to admit 205,000 DP's during the next two years, it was announced here by DP Commissioner Ugo Carusi. The flow of DP immigrants to this country, he said, probably would not start before late September.

Carusi noted that those DP's who will be able to enter the U.S. within the first year, cannot possibly fill the job offers that have already arrived at the State Department. Many of the first DP's to arrive will include the families of workers, Carusi pointed out. About 100,000 employment offers have been received to date, most of them emanating from farms, he added.

MOVEMENT OF GERMAN JEWS TO SWEDEN REPORTED; SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- The movement of many German Jews to Sweden in search of employment in Swedish factories was reported here today by the newspaper Aftonbladet. The paper said the captain of a German fishing vessel was directing the migration of the Jews from the German resort town of Warnemuende.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS PRESENT AIR AMBULANCE TO ISRAEL; MAYOR O'DWYER ATTENDS CEREMONY

NEW YORK, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- Official presentation of an air ambulance to the state of Israel by members of the Jewish War Veterans of New York State took place today at City Hall here. Participating in the ceremonies were Mayor William O'Dwyer, Arthur Lourie, Consul-General for the Provisional Government of Israel, and Sydney Stein, commander of the New York Department of the J.W.V.

The "flying hospital," fully equipped for immediate transfer to Israel, was on display during the ceremonies. The air ambulance is one of three planes purchased by the J.W.V. for Israel, through contributions raised by 285 branches throughout New York State.

ADVOCATES BARRING JEWS FROM EMPLOYMENT IN U.S. GOVT. OFFICE DEALING WITH PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- The opinion that no Jew should be employed in the section of the State Department dealing with the Palestine question was advanced here by Arthur Garfield Hays, special counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, in an interview with press representatives.

Explaining his attitude, Mr. Hays said that he believes "there would be bias and personal interest" if a Jew were employed in a government office concerned with Palestine. He made this statement in connection with criticism which he leveled against the hearings now taking place in Washington on Communist activities in the U.S., scoring the "advertisement" given to the Communists by the various Federal and Congressional investigations and saying that they constituted a threat to civil liberties.

In the matter of taking Communists into Federal employ, the leader of the Civil Liberties Union said that he himself would not trust a Communist on a matter involving the Soviet Union any more than he would want to see a Jew in an office in the State Department if the business of that office concerned Palestine.

LARGE CARGO OF NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL NEXT WEEK FROM SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG, So. Africa, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- An Israel-bound cargo organized by the Zionist Federation here, with the consent of the government, will sail aboard the Danish vessel Benpyskou from Capetown next week, it was announced here today.

Estimated at 6,300 tons, the non-military cargo includes medical supplies and food. Several thousand crates of dehydrated vegetables were contributed by Jewish farmers in this country. The cargo comprises 35,000 blankets, 11,000,000 cigarettes, 20,000 sleeping bags, as well as large quantities of canned foods.

WORLD AGUDAH PARLEY TO BE HELD IN ISRAEL; WILL STUDY IMMIGRATION OF ORTHODOX JEWS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12. (JTA) -- A World Conference of Agudas Israel will be held here next month to map plans for expanding the immigration of Orthodox Jews to Israel and for aiding in their resettlement in the Jewish state, it was announced here today. Delegates representing Jewish communities throughout the world will visit Agudah settlements, educational and other institutions during the parley.

A group of seven Agudah leaders in this country will leave shortly for Paris to participate in the European conference of the Agudah which is scheduled to begin Aug. 20. The delegation plans to submit a program calling for increased Agudah activities in Israel.