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LAST MINUTE NEWS

BRITISH M.P. ARRIVES IN JERUSALEM REPORTEDLY TO PROPOSE PEACE PLAN; CONFERS WITH ARABS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Chapman Walker, Conservative member of the British Parliament, arrived here today reportedly to explore possibilities for establishing peace in Palestine. He arrived in the Arab-held sector of Jerusalem where he was said to have conferred with prominent Arab leaders, including members of the Palestine Arab Higher Committee.

After a short stay in this city, Walker is expected to proceed to Tel Aviv to discuss the present situation with the Israeli Government. He refused to make any comment to newspaper correspondents, and the exact character of his mission is unknown, but there are indications that he plans to submit a peace proposal based on the Morrison-Grady "federalization" scheme. He is the first British official to visit Palestine since the termination of the British Mandate.

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ARABS LAUNCH "GENERAL ATTACK" IN JERUSALEM; TWO JEWISH SOLDIERS KILLED, THREE WOUNDED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Arab forces launched a "general attack" along the entire Jerusalem front at dawn today, an Israeli Army communique reported. Two Jewish soldiers were killed and three were wounded in the initial fighting, the announcement said, adding that there was no immediately available information on the number of Arab casualties.

The detonations of mortar shells and heavy machinegun fire awoke the inhabitants of Jerusalem around dawn as the Arab assault developed. The Arabs concentrated on the perimeter stretching from the halfway mark between Jerusalem and Bethlehem northwards to the Sheik Jarrach quarter.

The Israeli communique noted that the attack was directed by the Egyptian Army in the south--mainly against Ramat Rachel and Talpith--and against the Mt. Zion and Beith Israel quarters by the Arab Legion. The Legion troops laid down a smoke screen in the northern sector before opening their drive.

Israeli troops returned the fire of the Arab attackers. There were no indications as to whether the Arab attacks had resulted in any advances.

Later, U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte's representative in this area, Brig. Gen. William E. Riley, of the U.S. Marine Corps, was notified by Israeli military governor for Jerusalem Dr. Dov Joseph that although Jewish troops have been ordered not to open fire in reply to Arab sniping, so as to enable the U.N. truce officials to determine responsibility for the constant shooting in the city, "nevertheless, we reserve the right to defend ourselves. If attacked, we shall reply. We demand that the Arabs withdraw from the positions they occupied in 'no-man's land' during the cease-fire period."

(Commenting on this morning's Arab assault in Jerusalem, an Israeli Government spokesman in Tel Aviv declared: "This is a further instance of the weight which can be attached to the Arab assurances given to the mediator. Count Bernadotte said the Arabs promised him they would not open fire in Jerusalem, even if fired on. Indeed, the mediator even emphasized this point. This morning's attack, following the Arabs' sabotage of the Latrun pumping station, exposes as utter worthlessness their previous promises and reflects gravely on the judgment of those who showed such readiness to accept these promises on their face value.")

Unable to reach the Wailing Wall in the Old City for the traditional Tisha B'Av services, a group of Jewish dignitaries, accompanied by correspondents, proceeded today to an advance Israeli Army position in an Arab village on the Latrun front, not far from the recently-destroyed water pumping station, to mark the ancient day of mourning. Israeli troops in the village fired a volley of three shots into the air to commemorate the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

For the fourth consecutive day, Iraqis attacked the Jewish-held Arab village of Kfar Saba, northeast of Tel Aviv. Two children were wounded by the enemy mortar fire, which is directed from positions captured by the Arabs during the present truce.

BEN GURION SUMMONS CABINET; WARNS ISRAEL WILL OUST ARAB INVADERS IF U.N. FAILS TO DO SO

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The Israeli Cabinet was summoned over the weekend by David Ben Gurion to consider the next steps resulting from the Latrun crisis. U.N. observers, meanwhile, reported that both the Jews and Arabs are at action stations and the situation is critical.

Addressing a meeting of the Mapai Council last night, which was attended by delegates from all over the world, Ben Gurion declared: "If the United Nations is unable to impose a decision to oust the foreign invading armies, not only from Israel territory but from all of Palestine, we will have to do so ourselves, since their presence threatens our existence and violates international law.

"Israel did not merge from a U.N. decision," Ben Gurion stated, "but was created through its own efforts and perseverance. The country's fate is now dependent on the war issue and we must be prepared for a renewal of hostilities. The frontiers of Israel have not yet been finally set and, although we will respect an international agreement on our borders, we must strike a victorious blow to substantiate our claims.

"Even when our frontiers, authority, sovereignty and international status will be safely established, we will still be remote from the aims assigned ourselves for the establishment of our state. Generations have not in vain suffered and struggled to see only 800,000 Jews in this country. It is the duty of the present generation to redeem the Jews in the Arab and European countries," he declared.

Israel Cannot Continue in State of Neither War Nor Peace, Shertok Says

Outlining Israel's foreign policy at the same meeting, Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok emphasized that the Jewish state's policy will be based "on the United Nations, but will be completely independent from the Eastern and Western blocs and in consideration of our national interests." Asserting that "it is impossible for Israel to continue in a state of neither war nor peace," Shertok said "we must request the U.N. to liquidate the truce through the expulsion of the invaders or the truce will have to be ended through war."

The Israeli Foreign Minister stressed, however, that "in case hostilities were renewed, the Israeli Government will not cease its efforts to attain peace by pursuing its recently-made proposals. Regarding our frontiers, the Provisional Government is mindful of the U.N. demarcation lines, but the U.N.'s inability to prevent changes resulting from war is clear corroboration that the question of frontiers requires revision," Shertok said.

"Israel never intended to dispossess any Arabs and was prepared to agree to the presence of a large Arab minority within its boundaries," he continued, adding: "But it has never happened throughout history that, after such a drastic change, the situation should revert to its former aspect. The Arab refugee question," he concluded, "will be dealt with at the peace negotiations."

(In an editorial today, the N.Y. Herald-Tribune said: "Whether or not the Security Council accedes to the Israeli request for a time limit on the truce, it should certainly get peace negotiations started and discover whether there is any real chance for a settlement. In the four weeks since the cease-fire order Count Bernadotte's efforts have been directed toward enforcement of the truce, and even in this he has not been notably successful. If the period of the truce is not used to work for a permanent settlement, nothing will have been gained in the end by the cease-fire.")

The existence of the so-called "Burma" water pipeline to Jerusalem was made known here over the week-end. Put into use several weeks ago, the new line draws water from the Judean plain. Its capacity, however, is limited and improvements are now under way to enlarge its facilities.

NEW ISRAELI CURRENCY TO BE PUT INTO CIRCULATION NEXT WEEK; WILL EQUAL PALESTINE POUND

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The New Israeli currency notes will be put into circulation early next week, it was learned here today. The Israeli pound will be equivalent in value to the former Mandatory Power's Palestine pound.

Tuesday's special session of the State Council is expected to approve the new fiscal legislation which will appoint the Anglo-Palestine Bank as the sole authority for issuing the new money. A month's grace will be provided for the public in exchanging the notes of the Mandatory, now in circulation, for the new Israeli pounds. After a month the Palestine pound will be considered foreign exchange. Officials here consider this step toward Israel's financial independence the most important event since political Israeli statehood was proclaimed.

FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT PROTESTS AGAINST CONTINUED DETENTION OF FRENCH JEWS

PARIS, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The French Ambassador in Cairo this week-end made representations to the Egyptian Government over the detention of 18 French Jews who were arrested following the entry of Egyptian troops into Palestine on May 13.

Reports reaching here say that several of the detained Jews--allegedly the leaders of a protest hunger strike which the detainees staged last week--have been separated from the rest of the imprisoned Jews.

(The New York Times, in a dispatch from Geneva, quoted a Swiss newspaper as stating that the death of Stephen Haas--the Philadelphia Jew who was reportedly fatally stoned by an Egyptian mob in Cairo--took place "in an Egyptian police station in the presence of his wife, who was forcibly prevented from aiding her husband as he bled on the floor where he had been flung by police."

FIRST ISRAEL-SPONSORED AIR LINE TO BEGIN SERVICE FROM PARIS TO HAIFA IN FEW DAYS

PARIS, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- "Israel Air," the first Israeli Government sponsored Jewish air line, will start operations in the next few days. Using Dakota planes, the new service will schedule daily flights from Paris via Rome and Athens to Haifa.

Kosher food will be served on board. At present, however, only one plane is available for the operation.

ISRAEL-BOUND CARGO LEAVES BRITISH PORT; FIRST SHIPLOAD SINCE SHIPPING BAN LIFTED

LONDON, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The steamship Bantria will leave Liverpool early next week with a cargo for Israeli importers to be landed at Haifa and Tel Aviv. This will be the first shipload since the Mediterranean and Peninsula Shipping Conference, licensing such operations, rescinded its earlier ban on shipping from Britain to Israel.

The belief that Australian Foreign Minister Herbert Evatt, now in London, will reopen with British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin the entire question of Britain's attitude toward recognition of Israel was voiced here today in informed circles.

It was learned that Evatt had a long talk with Count Folke Bernadotte in Geneva, while the U.N. mediator was there on his way to Stockholm for the International Red Cross conference. It is believed that Bernadotte may have impressed upon Evatt the desirability of setting as a time limit the meeting of the U.N. General Assembly at Paris in September, when the task of the mediator would terminate.

MASS MOVEMENT OF DISPLACED JEWS FROM BRITISH TO AMERICAN ZONE IN GERMANY REPORTED

LONDON, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- A "mass flight of displaced Jews from the British zone of Germany to the U.S. zone" was reported here today by David Raymond, foreign editor of Reynolds News, following a visit to Bavaria. He said that the movement of the Jews began as a result of Britain's continued refusal to extend recognition to Israel.

Raymond reported that the DP's, after "so many years of statelessness, receive a moral uplift when they receive visas for their own country from Israeli representative Dr. Chaim Hoffman, who is recognized by the American Military Government."

(In Berlin, a British spokesman revealed that the Jews forcibly returned to Hamburg last year from the ill-fated Exodus have vanished from their camp "for an unknown destination." On the night of August 10, the spokesman said, "a large movement out of the camp--near Oldenburg--occurred. It is not known by what means either this final disappearance or any of the other moves took place," he said.)

PRESIDENT TO ASK NEXT CONGRESS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY \$3,000,000 FOR DP IMMIGRATION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- President Truman expects to ask Congress for an additional \$3,000,000 supplementary appropriation for the first year's operation of the Displaced Persons Commission when Congress reconvenes in January, it was revealed here in the mid-year review of the Federal budget released today by the White House.

Originally the President requested \$4,000,000 for the first year's operation of the program on the grounds that that amount would be necessary to facilitate the admission of 100,000 displaced persons during the first year. Congress, however, cut the figure to \$2,000,000.

Synagogue Council Says Jewish Groups Proposed DP Act Changes

The Synagogue Council of America today refuted the statement of Senator Alexander Wiley that he had not received suggestions for desired changes from any religious leaders regarding the DP law enacted by Congress. The "fact of the matter," the Synagogue Council declared, is that ten national Jewish organizations "submitted a list of 11 amendments" to Congress.

"These corrections would have eliminated religious and racial discrimination which, as the bill stands, was characterized by President Truman as anti-Semitic and anti-Catholic," the Council said. "It would be unfortunate to have the American community believe that responsible Jewish leaders appear to give even a modicum of sanction to features of the recent bill," the Council added.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN TELLS PUBLISHERS DELEGATION HE IS A FRIEND OF STATE OF ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- President Truman told a group of foreign-language newspaper publishers over the week-end that he is a friend of the state of Israel. Because of the present international situation, he added, certain steps cannot be taken as quickly as might be desired. He also expressed the conviction that Jews throughout the world consider him a friend of the Jewish people.

Included in the deputation were Alexander Kahn, general manager of the Jewish Daily Forward, Arthur Jacobs, of the Jewish Morning Journal, and S. Dingol, of The Day.

J.D.C. APPROPRIATES \$100,000 TO BUY MACHINERY FOR JEWISH LABOR COOPERATIVES IN POLAND

WARSAW, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee has appropriated \$100,000 to purchase machinery and other supplies for the Jewish labor cooperatives in Poland, it was announced today by William Bein, J.D.C. director for Poland who returned here from a J.D.C. conference in Paris.

GENERAL ZIONIST PARLEY STUDIES REVAMPING OF ZIONIST PROGRAM; SCHWARTZBART URGES UNITY

NEW YORK, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- A complete revamping of the Zionist program in Europe in the light of the establishment of Israel was considered at the plenary session of the European bureau of the World Confederation of General Zionists, held in Paris over the week-end, a cable to the New York headquarters of the Confederation revealed today.

Dr. I. Schwartzbart, member of the Actions Committee of the World Zionist Organization, who left today for Israel to attend the forthcoming sessions of the Zionist Actions Committee in Tel Aviv, issued a statement declaring that "prior to the Actions Committee meeting, the world executive of the Confederation of General Zionists will meet. This organization was split in 1936 and was reunited two years ago. I hope that this unity will be preserved," the statement added.

Terming the Actions Committee parley "of special importance," Dr. Schwartzbart asserted: "It will have to define the relations of the future Zionist organization with the state of Israel, map out the structure of the future Zionist organization under the new conditions and elect seven members to the executive to replace those who became members of the Israeli Government. Its agenda contains many points, which have a bearing on the future tasks of the Zionist organizations in the Diaspora and thus indirectly on the activities of the World Jewish Congress, as the organization of and for Jewry in the Diaspora."

COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM OFFICIAL SAYS U.S. JEWS MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN FAITH AND NATIONALITY

NEW YORK, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Emphasizing the concern of the American Council for Judaism with Jewish nationalism in the United States, executive director Elmer Berger declared that the choice facing all Jews in this country, now that the Jews of Israel have elected a national status for themselves, is between being Americans of the Jewish faith or Americans of Jewish nationality.

"Living by our philosophy," said Berger, "we have all of the concern for the people who are Jews in Israel that we have for people who are Jews in England, France, the Near East or anywhere else. But they are humanitarian sentiments based on religion. They are not national sentiments." In a special article in the current issue of the official publication of the Council, Berger contends that the Zionist answer to the problem of the relationship of Jews outside of Israel to the new state is that Zionists will continue to look upon American Jews as "Americans of Jewish nationality."

"Jews outside of Israel who do not wish their national integration in the countries which are their homelands disturbed by a continuance of the anomaly of a 'Jewish' nationalism fostered by Zionism," he added, "must aggressively reject the contention that the proclamation of Israel has invested all Jews with a 'Jewish' nationality, in either a first, second or third degree of national attachments. We are not the heirs of the political fight being waged by Zionist-nationalists nor its allies, simply by virtue of being Jews," Berger says.