

Tuesday, August 17, 1948

# JTA

## Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

### FLASH

#### ISRAELI OFFICER, ESCORTING U.S. CONSUL IN JERUSALEM, SHOT DEAD BY ARAB SNIPER

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- Zeev Herzog, 36-year-old Israeli Army liaison officer, was shot dead today by an Arab sniper while escorting U.S. consul-general John J. MacDonald through the Jewish lines in the northern Jerusalem area. Herzog was shot while he got out of the U.S. consul's official car in the "no-man's land" between the Jewish and Arab lines.

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#### ISRAELI ARMY REPORTS SNIPING AT JEWISH TRAFFIC NEAR JERUSALEM; FIGHTING IN CITY RAGES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- An Israeli Army communique reported today that Arab riflemen slashed at Jewish traffic on Jerusalem's outskirts today--the first resumption of highway sniping in nearly three months. No casualties were reported by the shooting, the communique added.

The entire Jerusalem front was aflame for an hour and a half today as Jews and Arabs waged a bitter mortar duel. Three Jews were hurt in the Mt. Zion sector. The Israeli announcement said the Arabs attacked on three segments of the front and, until the early dawn fog lifted, the fighting continued under a heavy mist.

Meanwhile, it was reported today that important meetings are now taking place at Jewish National Fund headquarters here. Among those participating in the sessions are Judge Morris Rothenberg, president of the J.N.F. in America, and Mendel Fisher, executive director. The future plans of the Fund and the question of developments in the Jerusalem area are under discussion.

#### SAUDI ARABIA LETS U.S. CREDIT LAPSE BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES OVER PALESTINE POLICY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- The Saudi Arabian Government has let a \$15,000,000 portion of a \$25,000,000 Export-Import Bank credit lapse because of political differences with the United States over American support of Jewish claims in Palestine, it was reported here today. A spokesman for the Saudi Arabian legation said that his government had decided to let the loan expire because they preferred to get their money "from friends, not enemies."

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### ENEMY PLANE APPEARS OVER TEL AVIV; ISRAEL GOVERNMENT PROTESTS ACTION OF U.N. OBSERVERS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- The first alert since the second truce started four weeks ago was sounded this afternoon in Tel Aviv when an unidentified airplane appeared over the city. An all-clear signal was given after ten minutes. It is assumed that the plane was Egyptian.

The appearance of the craft, which follows the heaviest day of fighting in Jerusalem since the truce became effective, was taken as an indication here that the Arabs intend to continue their military operations. Arab snipers resumed firing today on Jewish convoys on the road to Jerusalem.

The Israeli Government today issued a memorandum accusing United Nations truce observers of refusing to allow an Israeli liaison officer to travel with a convoy to Jerusalem which was proceeding under U.N. auspices. As a result, the convoy was turned back to Tel Aviv and reached Jerusalem over the "Burma Road."

Jewish technicians started repair work today on the Latrun water pumping station which was wrecked by the Arabs last week. Their task consists primarily of establishing whether it is possible to repair the station so as to pipe water to Jerusalem.

### Israeli Envoy to USSR to Leave for Moscow Next Sunday

Israeli envoy to the Soviet Union, Mrs. Golda Meirson, announced at a farewell party given by the Mapai in her honor that she will probably leave for Moscow next Sunday. Mordecai Nemirowski-Namir has been appointed counsellor to the Israeli legation in the Soviet capital.

Thousands of persons today attended a public meeting arranged by the Soviet-Israeli Friendship Association here on the occasion of the arrival of the Russian envoy to the Jewish state. Among the speakers who addressed the gathering was Dr. Moshe Shoh, former member of the Jewish Agency executive, who represented the Mapam, the Workers Unity Party.

The Israeli diplomatic mission to Rumania will be accredited also to Bulgaria and Hungary, it was learned here today. Consular offices will, however, be opened in those two countries. Similarly, the Israeli mission in Czechoslovakia will also be accredited to Austria and Yugoslavia, until such time as the latter two name their own missions to Israel.

Jews in Israel read with great interest today the disclosure yesterday in Jerusalem that Sheikh Yussef Abu Oosh, who leads a village in the Jerusalem area, fought alongside the Stern Group members for three years, freed Geulah Cohen--one of the dissident group's most popular members, who broadcasts on their underground radio, from a British jail--and participated in the bombing of the British Criminal Investigation Department building three years ago. At a press interview, the Sheikh pledged friendship to the state of Israel and vowed he and his men would continue to fight for the Jewish state's freedom and to "rid Palestine of the British yoke."

ISRAELI CURRENCY GOES INTO CIRCULATION TODAY; FINANCE MINISTER EXPLAINS ITS COVERAGE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- Israeli currency will go into circulation tomorrow, it was announced at a press conference here today by Eliezer Kaplan, Minister of Finance.

The Jewish population will be given a month's grace to exchange the British-issued Palestine pound for Israeli notes. After September 15, only Israeli currency will circulate in the country. Former Palestine notes will be considered foreign exchange after that date.

The official rate of exchange will be \$4.00 to the Israeli pound, Kaplan said, but pointed out that in order to attract dollars in the form of payment for exports the government will continue to grant bonuses for exported products so that the actual rate for these exchanges will be \$3.00 to the pound.

The exact quantity of the notes which will be placed on the market will depend on the demand, Minister Kaplan said. The currency will not as yet bear the name of Israel, since it was printed in the United States before the state of Israel was proclaimed. The issuing authority of the Israeli notes is the Anglo-Palestine Bank.

The Israeli Minister emphasized that the government of the Jewish state will demand the "defrosting" by Britain of approximately 50,000,000 Palestine pounds which are now blocked in London. This sum has been invested by the Mandatory Currency Board in British securities to cover the Palestine pound. In addition, about 25,000,000 Palestine pounds, held in banks in England by private individuals, are also blocked. The Israeli Government, he pointed out, will request the deblocking of these accounts, too.

The Minister expressed the hope that "the Israeli pound will be internally and externally no weaker than the Palestine pound, since high cover is available." Bankers and business firms have already informed the Israeli Government that they are satisfied that financial correctness has been maintained by the Provisional Government in issuing the new currency.

Anglo-Palestine Bank in London Announces Issue of Israeli Currency

LONDON, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- The Anglo-Palestine Bank announced here today that it will set up an issue department for the new Israeli pound. This will in no way affect the ordinary business of the bank. Against notes to be issued, the department of the bank will hold: 1. Gold, which will be secured by the Israeli Government; 2. Notes of the British-issued Palestine currency; 3. Foreign exchange balances, mainly sterling and dollars; 4. Treasury bills and short-term securities of the state of Israel; 5. Rediscounts.

On the termination of the bank's charter, all assets and liabilities of the issue department of the Anglo-Palestine Bank will revert to a body to be nominated by the government of Israel.

LARGE FORMAL CHARGES AGAINST BRITONS ACCUSED OF ESPIONAGE; LINK THEM TO BEN YEHUDA BLAST

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- Formal charges against two British subjects were read in Magistrates Court here today. A series of nine counts charges the two--Frederick Sylvester and William Hawkins--with obtaining military information about the Israeli Army during the recent fighting and transmitting it to the Arabs. They were also accused of participating in the Ben Yehuda Street bombing, in which 50 persons were killed. The hearing is expected to continue all week.

DR. SILVER SEEKS TO AVERT SPLIT IN RANKS OF WORLD ORGANIZATION OF GENERAL ZIONISTS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- An attempt to head off a possible split between the "A" and "B" factions within the General Zionist movement will be made here by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. Commenting on the decision of the "A" group last night to abstain from participation in the sessions of the World Confederation of General Zionists opening here Wednesday, Dr. Silver said:

"Upon the establishment of Israel, an obligation has fallen on the shoulders of the General Zionist movement--we must organize Zionists in the Diaspora and prepare them for immigration to Israel. We must also give them agricultural and other training. The General Zionists must organize funds for Israel. We must now have two centers--one in Jerusalem, to handle immigration, settlement and absorption; and the other in the United States, to supervise the organization of the Zionist movement in the Diaspora and the handling of economic problems connected with Israel." A split at this time between the "A" and "B" factions in the General Zionist ranks must be avoided since it would greatly weaken the whole movement, he emphasized.

At the session in which they voted not to participate in the world-wide parley, the "A" General Zionists also decided to negotiate with the General Zionist Laborites, the Aliyah Hadashah and a part of the General Zionist "B" group with a view towards establishing a "progressive Zionist movement." A committee was named to prepare for discussions with these groups.

The main causes for the possible rift in the General Zionist ranks are economic, particularly those concerning the agricultural set-up in Israel and the "responsibilities of employers" towards their employees. The "A" group, which is politically more Left than the "B" group, is headed by Interior Minister Dr. Itzhak Gruenbaum.

Addressing a large crowd last night here--and making his initial public appearance--Menachem Beigin, Irgun Zvai Leumi chief, demanded that the Israeli Government abolish the emergency defense regulations under which five Irgunists are at present being detained. After asking his audience for a hand vote as to whether they agreed with his views, all those present raised their hands.

ISRAELI MISSION CONFERS WITH CANADIAN OFFICIALS ON \$5,000,000 PURCHASING PLAN

OTTAWA, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- Members of an Israeli purchasing mission spent a few days in Canada conferring with government officials on the possibility of purchasing Canadian goods and foodstuffs--valued at \$5,000,000--within the next few weeks.

Dr. Herbert Foerder, head of the mission, said it is hoped to expand the total to \$20,000,000 for the coming year. Food Controller in the Government of Israel, Dr. Foerder said the mission was interested in buying Canadian wheat, barley, corn, frozen and canned beef, canned salmon, canned peas, dried apples, cheese and evaporated milk. The delegation also wants to purchase clothing, such as sweaters and knitted goods, and had already signed a \$1,000,000 contract with a clothing manufacturing firm in Montreal.

Samuel Zacks, president of the Canadian Zionist Organization, said that between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000 worth of goods has been purchased from Canada since the Jewish state was proclaimed. There is also a need for lumber and orange crates, he added.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT PLANS TO LIQUIDATE ALL CAMPS FOR DISPLACED JEWS WITHIN A YEAR

TEL AVIV, August 16. (JTA) -- The government of Israel is planning to liquidate all the camps for displaced Jews in Europe within one year, it was revealed here today at a press conference by Moshe Shapira, Israeli Immigration Minister.

Negotiations to this end are presently being conducted with the International Refugee Organization, he revealed. He expressed the hope that these negotiations will lead to financial arrangements by the IRO which will facilitate the emigration of all the displaced Jews from the camps in the European countries.

Correcting a previous statement that the Israeli Government intends to bring in 125,000 immigrants annually into the country, the Minister said that the government is prepared to take the responsibility for the absorption of this number yearly, but whoever wants and can immigrate by his own means, not requiring government assistance, is welcome and can come immediately. Israeli immigration officers, he stated, are now stationed in many cities throughout the world and are distributing visas to Israel.

770 JEWISH DP'S FROM ITALIAN AND AUSTRIAN CAMPS REACH FRENCH PORT EN ROUTE TO ISRAEL

PARIS, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- A contingent of 590 Jewish immigrants from DP camps in Italy, and 180 from Austrian camps, arrived in Marseille today from the Italian port of Genoa aboard the S.S. Kedman, en route to Haifa. The group included 50 children.

More than 500 Jewish refugees, former passengers of the Exodus '47, arrived here from Munich yesterday by special train, under American escort, for embarkation to Palestine.

NAZI LIQUIDATOR OF WARSAW GHETTO TO STAND TRIAL IN WARSAW; U.S. PROSECUTOR SUBMITS DATA

WARSAW, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- General Jurgen von Stroop, liquidator of the Warsaw Ghetto, will stand trial for his crimes this autumn, it was announced here today. The American war crimes prosecutor in Nuremberg has turned over to the Polish Government a complete dossier on von Stroop, including reports which he submitted to the German high command on the various phases of the destruction of the ghetto.

The highest judicial body in Poland will try von Stroop in Warsaw. Gen. L. Geibel and S. Sporrenberg, Nazi police and Gestapo officials, respectively, also charged with active participation in the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto, will be tried together with von Stroop.

TWO JEWISH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN HUNGARY MERGED; CITE ENROLLMENT DECREASE

BUDAPEST, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- The merger of two state-supported Jewish educational institutions--the Jewish Teachers Training College and the Rabbinical Training College--was announced here today. The reason given by the authorities for this step was the continued decrease in the enrollment of students at the teachers institution.

The famous Jewish library collection belonging to the late chief rabbi of the town of Szeged, Emanuel Lobe, has been bequeathed to the Hungarian Jewish Museum, it was reported here today. The scientific section of the collection will be turned over to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

ARGENTINE POLICE ARREST MORE MEMBERS OF GROUP SMUGGLING JEWS INTO COUNTRY. ILLEGALLY

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- Additional arrests of members of a group organized to smuggle illegal Jewish immigrants into Argentina across the border from Uruguay were announced today by the police. The clandestine movement of the Jews into Argentina was described by one newspaper here as being made under "the most perilous circumstances."

All Jews in this city were invited today by the pro-Peron Jewish group, "Organizacion Israelita Argentina," to join in the dedication ceremonies of the organization's headquarters this Friday which are expected to be attended by Argentine President Juan Peron, his wife and other leading dignitaries.

A book, Oro (Gold), by "Hugo Wast," which is based on the notorious "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," was removed from public display today by a leading bookstore here following a protest from the DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry. The volume is the work of Argentina's top anti-Semite, Gustavo Martinez Zuviria, who served briefly as Minister of Justice in 1944 under former President Ramirez.

ISRAELI OFFICIAL TO TOUR LATIN AMERICA; WILL DISCUSS CONSULAR RELATIONSHIPS

NEW YORK, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- Moises A. Toff, Under-Secretary for Latin American Affairs and a member of the Israeli mission to the U.N., will leave here tomorrow for a four weeks' tour through Latin America, it was announced today by the Israeli Office of Information.

Mr. Toff, in his capacity as envoy extraordinaire, will discuss diplomatic and consular relationships between Israel and various Latin American countries during his tour. He will visit Venezuela, Uruguay, Guatemala, Panama, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, all of which have already recognized the state of Israel.

RED MOGEN DOVID FLIES BLOOD PLASMA, ADDITIONAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO TEL AVIV

NEW YORK, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- The fifth air shipment in three months of blood plasma for Israel was flown today to Tel Aviv, it was announced here by the American Red Mogen Dovid.

Besides the blood plasma, the plane carried a cargo of 1,000 pounds of DDT powder, 280 pounds of tetanus anti-toxin serum, 15,000 units of gas gangrene anti-toxin, 1,000 pairs of surgeons' gloves and other medical supplies.

FIRST YIDDISH BOOK PUBLISHED IN ROME; JEWISH WRITERS UNION CELEBRATES OCCASION

ROME, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- The first book ever to be published in Yiddish in Rome made its appearance here today under the title "Jewish Participation in the Partisan Movement." The author, Moshe Kaganowitch, a former partisan, is now a member of a Hechalutz training center here. Publication of the book was celebrated last night at a public gathering arranged by the Union of Jewish Writers and Journalists.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF "MUNDO ISRAELITTA," LEADING ARGENTINE JEWISH NEWSPAPER CELEBRATED

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- The 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Spanish-language newspaper, Mundo Israelita (Jewish World), was celebrated here today with leaders of the Argentine Jewish community joining in the ceremonies. The paper is under the direction of Leon Kibrick.