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HEAVY FIGHTING IN JERUSALEM CONTINUES FOR THIRD DAY; U.N. OBSERVERS BLAME ARABS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- Heavy fighting in Jerusalem continued today for the third day. The Arab Legion opened artillery fire early this morning at Jewish positions. The Jews were forced to use artillery to reply to the enemy shelling.

An official report cabled by U.N. observers to Lake Success established that it was the Arabs who opened fire. The report said: "Arab artillery is shelling Jerusalem. Arab guns have fired from a hill east of Nabi Dawud. Jews also used artillery, but their range is short and shells fell on the village of Silvan Deir. The northern sector of Jerusalem is relatively quiet except for the exchange of automatic rifle fire."

Two unidentified airplanes, believed to be Egyptian, flew at a high altitude over Rehovoth today. The city was alerted for about 20 minutes. A serious truce breach by Iraqi forces was reported this morning from Tirat Zvi, south of Beisan. (An air raid alarm was sounded in Cairo early this afternoon. The alert lasted 15 minutes but the cause was unknown, Reuters reported.)

The U.N. mediator's chief of staff, Gen. A.A. Lundstrom, left today for Tel Aviv where he plans to meet with U.N. observers to discuss the convoy situation and the Latrun explosion. He also plans to visit the front lines between Tel Aviv and Gaza and will arrive in Jerusalem on Thursday.

Shertok Takes Up Jerusalem Issue With U.N. Observer

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok today received Capt. P. Mohm of the U.N. mediator's staff and discussed with him the situation in Jerusalem. He pointed out that after the compliments which the U.N. mediator paid to the Arabs for promising not to return fire in Jerusalem, the Arab Legion is now shelling Jewish positions there. He also drew the U.N. official's attention to the fact that an Israeli liaison officer was mortally wounded by an Arab sniper yesterday in Jerusalem while on duty with U.S. Consul-General John J. MacDonald, a member of the U.N. Truce Commission.

"This time the U.N. authorities will not be able to say that they do not know who fired the shot," Shertok said. "This tragic incident is another proof, if one is required, what value still can be placed on Arab assurances that they will not open fire in Jerusalem and that they will not even fire back."

The Israeli Foreign Minister made it clear to the U.N. representative that the Jews will not be able to withhold fire if attacked by the Arabs on a large scale. He added that before any new arrangements could be made, the Arabs must withdraw from the part of "no-man's-land" in Jerusalem occupied by them since the truce began.

ISRAELI COURT UPHOLDS IMPRISONMENT OF PETER BERGSON AND OTHER IRGUNISTS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- The Tel Aviv district court rejected today the application for a writ of habeas corpus for which the Israeli lawyer Max Seligman had applied in behalf of his clients, Peter Bergson, Jacob Meridor and three other members of the Irgun Zvai Leumi. Their continued imprisonment was thus confirmed.

Judge L. Kessan dissented from the opinion of the other two judges sitting in the case. The five detainees, who were arrested after an Irgun gun-runner attempted to land a cargo of arms off Tel Aviv during the first truce period, sent letters today to a number of prominent persons stating that they intended to go on a hunger strike that would end only with death.

The prisoners wrote that they had by now been under detention without trial for six weeks. They pointed out that they had intended to start their hunger strike earlier but had awaited the outcome of the habeas corpus proceeding. The five men said that they had now decided to go ahead with the hunger strike and the blame for the consequences would lie with the Israeli State Council and with the Jewish community.

SOVIET ENVOY TO ISRAEL PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO BEN GURION IN FORMAL CEREMONY

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- Pavel Yershov, the Soviet Union's envoy to the Provisional Government of Israel, accompanied by six members of his legation and Israeli Chief of Protocol Dr. Michael Simen, presented his credentials to Premier David Ben Gurion today.

Formally attired in his black and gold-braided foreign service uniform, the Soviet envoy was saluted by an Israeli guard of honor while a band played the Soviet and Israeli national anthems. Presenting his credentials, Yershov addressed Ben Gurion in Russian who, replying in Hebrew, said: "I am delighted to welcome you here. I sincerely hope that your work here will strengthen the friendly relations between our two states." A friendly conversation followed in Russian, which both Ben Gurion and Moshe Shertok, Israeli Foreign Minister, speak fluently.

BERNADOTTE APPEALS TO U.S. TO SUPPLY ARAB REFUGEES WITH FOOD; PLEA UNDER "URGENT" STUDY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- U.N. Palestine mediator Count Folke Bernadotte has appealed to the United States for food and other relief supplies to aid in caring for Arab and Jewish refugees displaced by the fighting in Palestine.

State Department press officer Michael J. McDermott said today that Secretary of State George C. Marshall late yesterday received a message from Count Bernadotte describing the "desperate" plight of 330,000 Arab refugees and 7,000 Jewish refugees and asking that the U.S. send wheat, canned meat, butter, cheese and D.D.T. McDermott said no decision has yet been taken in the matter, but the Department is "working on it urgently."

In his message to Secretary Marshall, Count Bernadotte asked: "Considering the extent and importance of your usual trade relationships with countries of the Middle East, including Palestine, will the Government of the United States assist to alleviate this sudden human disaster comparable to an earthquake or tidal wave by donating and diverting to me at Beirut or Agaba 2,500 tons of wheat, 100 tons of canned meat, 50 tons of cheese, 50 tons of butter, and 20 tons of D.D.T., ten percent immediately from your supplies and 90 percent within three months at the latest?"

PALESTINE CURRENCY BOARD IN LONDON NOT CONSULTED BY ISRAEL ON NEW CURRENCY ISSUE

LONDON, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- The Palestine Currency Board was not consulted by the Israeli Government before the decision to issue new Israeli currency was taken, an official statement released here revealed. The Currency Board, a branch of the former Mandatory Power's regime in Palestine which has not yet been liquidated, manages Palestine's currency on behalf of the British Colonial Office.

Commenting on the Israeli Government's action, the Financial Times, Britain's leading financial organ, declared today that "it is recognized in London that the winding up of the Palestine Mandate created some sort of a vacuum, since the Currency Board was administered from London under British control." Nevertheless, the publication expresses surprise over the fact that the Israeli Government did not wait for the "outcome of negotiations for the political future of Palestine" before issuing the new currency.

"Banking quarters in London are taking the view that the circulation of Palestine Currency Board notes in areas outside of the Jewish state will have to come under review as a result of the Jewish Government's decision," the paper added.

An editorial published in the same issue of the Times asserts that there is a "clear indication" that the amount of currency issued by Israel may in due course "well exceed the amount presently in circulation." This viewpoint contrasts strangely with the friendly comment voiced in a financial column appearing on the same page declaring that the introduction of the new currency "need occasion no surprise" since it has been generally assumed "that an independent Israeli Government is hardly likely to adhere to the Palestine pound."

Speculating on the question as to whether the Jewish state should become a member of the sterling area or become more closely integrated financially with the U.S., the same column points out that the fact that the "bulk of Palestine's external reserve is invested in sterling favors the former course of action."

1,000,000 Pounds Exchanged for Israeli Currency Within Few Hours

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- More than 1,000,000 Palestine pounds were exchanged for new Israeli currency less than four hours after the new money was put into circulation today, it was announced here.

The State Council last night unanimously approved the new Israeli currency bill introduced by Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan. After the measure was adopted, Premier David Ben Gurion asserted that "Israel today established its monetary independence."

"It should be clear, however," Ben Gurion warned, "that monetary independence is ultimately contingent upon economic independence. Such economic independence means large 'imports' of Jews to Israel and large exports of goods from Israel. The staunchest guarantee to the new Israeli currency would be provided not by a formal act of state, but by the constant increase of our strength," he added.

GROUP OF TURKISH JEWISH YOUTHS ARRIVES IN ISRAEL AFTER MAKING JOURNEY ON SMALL BOAT

ISTANBUL, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- A group of 30 Jewish young men sailed from here for Israel on a small boat, although their passports were not stamped with Israeli visas. Letters received today from the Jewish state by relatives here reveal that the youths landed safely in Haifa. Another contingent of Jewish youths from this country will leave soon for Italy to embark on an Israel-bound vessel.

HUNDREDS OF JEWISH PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS AND DENTISTS SEEK EMIGRATION FROM DP CAMPS

MUNICH, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- The International Refugee Organization will soon submit a list of qualified physicians, dentists, pharmacists and other medical personnel to all countries interested in admitting displaced persons as immigrants, it was revealed here today.

An I.R.O. spokesman disclosed that there are at present nearly 1,500 qualified physicians and dentists in the U.S. zone of Germany, the vast majority of them Jews. The number includes 350 specialists, 210 surgeons and a large group of general practitioners. In addition there are 509 dentists, 648 pharmacists and a variety of medical technicians.

Under the present arrangements, all applicants for an I.R.O. certificate stating that they are qualified to work in their respective professions must be examined by a special I.R.O. commission. In some cases, where documentary evidence attesting to the applicant's claims is lacking, the I.R.O. gives the applicant a thorough examination. A few persons who falsely claimed they had lost their papers were disqualified as a result of these tests.

JEWISH GROUP ASKS RED CROSS CONVENTION FOR PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN WAR VICTIMS

LONDON, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- A new Red Cross convention extending to civilian victims of war the protection now assured to military personnel and prisoners has been suggested to the International Red Cross by Agudah Israel, it was announced here today.

The Agudah World Organization in its capacity of non-governmental consultant to the United Nations, submitted a memorandum on the subject for consideration at the Red Cross conference opening in Stockholm on Friday. The statement points out: "Millions of unfortunate civilian victims of war were annihilated in the tragic years 1939 to 1945 and no protection could be afforded them by Red Cross institutions" because of the lack of such a convention. Rabbi W.S. Jacobson, member of the Agudah world executive, will represent the organization at the Stockholm conference.

MONUMENT FOR JEWISH HERO WHO LED REVOLT AGAINST NAZIS UNVEILED IN BIALYSTOK

WARSAW, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- The fifth anniversary of the revolt of the Jews in the Bialystok ghetto against the Nazis was marked yesterday at an unveiling of a monument in that city honoring Isaac Melamed, leader of the uprising. One of the streets in the city has also been named for him.

Representatives of the Polish Government participated in the unveiling ceremony. The monument is erected on the same spot where the German military authorities executed the Jewish hero, who gave himself up to the Germans after they executed 100 Jews and threatened to execute 5,000 more if he were not delivered to the Gestapo within a given period of time.

ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER BUCHAREST JEWISH THEATRE; WILL COVER ITS ENTIRE BUDGET

BUCHAREST, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- The Bucharest Yiddish theatre, "Ikuf," was named today a state theatre and will be taken over by the government. An official announcement said there will be no change in management or in the staff. The theatre has been receiving a government subsidy since its inception last year.

A group of former Iron Guard members in Transylvania was sentenced today to prison terms ranging from two to ten years for seizing Jewish-owned shops during the Antonescu regime. Bucharest papers criticized the long delay in bringing the case to court, charging that some of the judges in Transylvania are anti-Semitic.

JEWISH CONGRESS GETS APPEAL TO PREVENT DEPORTATION OF YEMENITE REFUGEES FROM ADEN

LONDON, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- An appeal to prevent the deportation from Aden, British protectorate on the southwest coast of the Arabian peninsula, of 17 Yemenite Jewish refugees who are the heads of families totalling 100 persons was received here today by the World Jewish Congress from the Aden Emergency Committee.

The plea pointed out that under present circumstances the deportation of these Jews to Yemen means almost certain death for them. The Aden authorities ordered the 17 heads of families to return to Yemen after they were found guilty by a court of "illegal animal slaughter"--an obvious reference to Jewish ritual slaughter.

COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM ASKS CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO BROADEN IMMIGRATION LAW

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- Alfred M. Lilienthal, a Washington attorney and spokesman for the American Council for Judaism, today appeared before the Senate subcommittee on immigration and naturalization with a recommendation urging the broadening of existing immigration legislation.

Emphasizing that the Council is concerned with the advancement of American national interests, Lilienthal declared that the United States, in the face of a declining birth rate and restricted immigration, is failing behind other nations in population growth.

Jews IN ARGENTINA, PLAN ORGANIZATION PATTERNED ON AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- The formation of an organization to be named the Argentine Jewish Committee, moulded along the lines of the American Jewish Committee, is being planned here, it was indicated today.

The president of the new organization, it was stated, will be Simon Mirelman. The vice presidents will be Enrique Schuster and Mario Schteingart. The latter is president of the B'nai B'rith in Argentina. No opinion has yet been expressed by the B'nai B'rith, central representative body of Argentina Jewry, towards the formation of the new group.

PEREZ HIRSCHBEIN, NOTED JEWISH WRITER, DIES IN LOS ANGELES; WAS 68 YEARS OLD

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- Perez Hirschbein, noted Yiddish playwright and poet, died here last night at the age of 68, after an illness of several years. Funeral services will be held here tomorrow.

A native of Byelorussia, Hirschbein came to this country in 1911 and wrote prolifically for the New York Yiddish stage and the Yiddish newspapers. In addition to his plays and poems, he was also known for his children's stories and travel books. His works were translated into Hebrew, Russian and German. "The Idle Inn," one of his plays, was produced in New York on Broadway.

HARRY D. WHITE, FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TREASURY, DIES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

FITZ WILLIAMS, N.H., Aug. 17. (JTA) -- Harry D. White, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and consultant to the Institute on Overseas Studies established by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, died here last night. He was 56 years old. Funeral services will take place in Boston Thursday morning. Rabbi Irving Mandell, of Temple Israel, will officiate.

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