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# JTA

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### ISRAELI-ARAB INFORMAL PEACE TALKS HELD IN PARIS; TRANSJORDAN AND LEBANON REPRESENTED

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Informal peace talks between Israeli representatives and Arab leaders from two Arab League states have been taking place in Paris, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned unofficially today.

The Jewish state is represented by Eli Sassoon and Meir Arazi of the Middle Eastern Division of the Israeli Foreign Office. The names of the Lebanese and Transjordan negotiators have not been learned.

Existence of the Paris meetings, which until yesterday was top secret, was reported following feelers put out by some Arab leaders who are opposed to continuance of an "armed truce" in Palestine.

(A secret meeting between the Foreign Minister of Transjordan, Fawzi Pasha Mulqui, and an Israeli official, described as the head of the Arab Department of Israel's Foreign Ministry, took place a few days ago in Jericho, a usually reliable diplomatic source disclosed today in London.)

### MEETING OF ISRAELI AND ARAB COMMANDERS IN JERUSALEM POSTPONED; FOUR JEWS WOUNDED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Four Jews were wounded in Jerusalem today when Arabs resumed their shelling of the Jewish quarters in the northeastern part of the city. Quiet prevailed in the other sectors. A meeting which was scheduled to take place today between the Israeli and Arab military commanders for the purpose of reaching an agreement on the disputed Red Cross area in the southern part of the city was postponed.

An investigation into the circumstances surrounding the abduction over the week-end of George F. Paro, an American consulate employee, by Stern Group members was demanded here today by U.S. consul-general John J. MacDonald in a strongly-worded protest to Israeli military governor Dr. Dov Joseph.

MacDonald also demanded "appropriate apologies" and informed the Israeli official that in reporting the incident to Washington he "pointed out that this case is indicative of the inability of the military government to control the situation in Jerusalem and afford the usual protection expected against terrorist organizations."

According to the U.S. note, the Sternists kidnapped Paro and questioned him for several hours. Paro bears a strong resemblance to a former Jerusalem British detective, and was apparently mistaken by the extremist group's members for a British spy. Following his release by the Sternists, the American was detained and questioned by Israeli military police before he was permitted to proceed to the U.S. consulate.

(Gen. Aage Lundstrom, chief of the U.N. truce observers, today notified United Nations headquarters at Lake Success that he has advised the Israeli government that Israel's occupation of the Jewish girls farm school in the Red Cross zone in Jerusalem is a "flagrant violation" of the truce.)

ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE HEARS DEMANDS FOR INCORPORATION OF JERUSALEM INTO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- A demand for the incorporation of Jerusalem into the territory of Israel and its creation as the capital of the Jewish state was voiced here today at the meeting of the Zionist Actions Committee. The demand was made by Dr. Bernard Joseph, military governor of Jerusalem.

Dr. Joseph asserted that "after Bernadotte proposed to convert Jerusalem into an Arab city we are fully entitled to demand its incorporation." During the subsequent debate Rabbi Meir Berlin, Mizrahi leader, more cautiously associated himself with Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok's point of view that the entire problem of internationalizing the city must be reconsidered. Revisionist leader Meir Grossman demanded Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the center of the Zionist movement.

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, in a broadcast last night over the Jerusalem radio praised the stand of the inhabitants of the city against the Arab military attacks. "The Jewish victims," he said, "proved to everybody that Jerusalem shall forever remain the heart of the Jewish people and the renewed state." The Jews will never agree to hand over Jerusalem to the Arabs, he warned. He concluded that the biggest fight for Jerusalem will start with the opening of the forthcoming U.N. General Assembly session in Paris next month. He also expressed the hope that the city would become Israel's capital.

Election of New Executive Is Main Issue at Committee Session

As the general debate continued in the Actions Committee session it became abundantly clear that the main issue of the parley will be the election of a new executive of the policy making body. Much of the behind-the-scenes negotiations and meeting has already begun. One proposal which has gained some support provides for keeping the same membership of the executive, except for replacement of those members who hold portfolios in the Israeli Cabinet. Supporters of this proposal fear that if a new executive is elected it may be necessary to include Revisionists, disturbing the present coalition which controls the executive.

Dr. Silver, in an address to the session, welcomed the recent appointment of James G. MacDonald as head of the special U.S. mission to Israel as a "definite gesture of goodwill and friendly cooperation" on the part of the U.S. Government. Speaking of the work of the Zionist movement in the U.S., he declared that the "largest Jewish community in the world, in the most important political and economic center in the world, stands ready to assume its full share in all future activities of the World Zionist Organization whose work will now of necessity have to be re-organized and redistributed."

He added that "the scope of the American section of the Jewish Agency, which has served our movement not unworthily in recent years, should be enlarged, in order to marshall the vast potentials of talent and resources -- well organized, alert and politically mature -- of American Jewry for maintaining and developing a powerful world Zionist movement dedicated to the defense and development of Israel."

Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the World Confederation of General Zionists, insisted that the center of the Zionist movement must be in Europe or in New York. He defended his proposal on the grounds of practicality. He also spoke of the importance of the political activities of American Jewry.

Eliahu Dobkin, head of the Jewish Agency Immigration Department, and Moshe Shapiro, Health and Immigration Minister, reported on various immigration problems. Dobkin outlined the major problems as: speeding immigration; finding new ways of mobilizing funds; Zionist education among the Jews in the rest of the world; and, the establishment of an all-embracing Zionist organization in which "every Jew can find a place."

BERGSON AND FOUR OTHER DETAINED IRGUN LEADERS TO BE RELEASED THIS FRIDAY

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- The families of Peter Bergson and four other arrested Irgun Zvai Leumi leaders were informed today by the Israeli authorities that the detainees will be freed this Friday, Aug. 27.

The Irgun leaders, who are now reportedly on a hunger strike to protest their detention, were seized by the Israeli Army during the unsuccessful attempt by the Irgun gun-runner Altalena to land a cargo of arms off Tel Aviv in violation of the first U.N. truce.

Betty Lazarus, who last year was sentenced by Belgian authorities to prison for sending letter bombs to leading British officials on behalf of the Stern Group, arrived in Israel today.

ISRAEL ASKS SECURITY COUNCIL FOR CLARIFICATION OF RULINGS ON RETALIATORY FIGHTING

LAKE SUCCESS, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government today asked the Security Council for clarification of some of the new truce provisions adopted last week by the Council. In a communication to the Council, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok pointed out that the ban against retaliatory fighting might encourage truce violations and asked whether the Council is prepared to deal promptly with them.

In reference to the decision that no permanent political and military gains may be scored from such fighting, the Israeli communication asked whether the Council was prepared to force relinquishment of such gains and to protect the victim against a worsening of military position.

FORMER U.S. YACHT TURNED OVER TO ISRAEL IN WASHINGTON CEREMONY; TO BE HARBOR CRAFT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- For the first time in history, the Israeli flag was hoisted over a vessel in American waters today as the Jewish state acquired a yacht which will ply the Mediterranean. The "Viking" was donated to Israel by Bernard Rodins, of this city, as "an expression of sympathy with the establishment of a democratic and progressive state by the Jewish people."

Israeli envoy to the United States Elisha Epstein took possession of the yacht, raised the Israeli flag and announced that the trim, 48-foot vessel will be used as an Israeli harbor craft. About 30 prominent Washington officials in Zionist organizations and members of the Israeli mission here witnessed the ceremony. They heard Epstein reaffirm the ancient historical tradition of Jews as mariners.

Rep. Emanuel Celler, in a letter to Secretary of State George C. Marshall, charged today that Marshall is partly responsible for the inaction of the Export-Import Bank in granting the \$100,000,000 loan to Israel. His letter challenged State Department explanations that no loan is immediately forthcoming because the subject is still under exhaustive study.

COMMANDER OF ARAB LEGION SAYS TRANSJORDAN WILL BE DEFEATED IF WAR IS RESUMED

LONDON, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Brig. John Bagot Glubb, commander of the Transjordan Arab Legion, has warned the British Government that, should the war flare up again in Palestine, Transjordan would be in danger of outright defeat. In this event, the former British officer is reported to have told British officials, Abdullah's kingdom would invoke the treaty with Britain and consider itself entitled to demand military assistance by British troops.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND TO CONTINUE ITS WORK IN ISRAEL AS AUTONOMOUS BODY, BOARD DECIDES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund will carry on its land purchasing program and cognate soil reclamation work as an autonomous body which will cooperate with but will remain independent of the authorities of the state of Israel. A decision to this effect was taken by the Board of Directors of the J.N.F. at a meeting held yesterday.

The Board, which met in the Jewish Agency building under the chairmanship of Dr. Abraham Granovsky, head of the J.N.F., heard an extensive report by Judge Morris Rothenberg, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, on the activities of the Fund in the United States. The consensus of opinion, as crystallized after a full discussion, was that it was essential to maintain and safeguard the autonomy of the Fund. Aaron Wright, president of the J.N.F. of Great Britain, and Mendel N. Fisher, J.N.F. executive director in the United States, also attended the meeting.

ISRAEL DENIES CHARGE THAT CATHOLIC HOLY PLACES WERE DESECRATED BY JEWISH TROOPS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- A statement denying that Catholic Holy Places were desecrated by Israeli troops was issued here last night by the Israeli Ministry for Religious Affairs. The denial was apparently precipitated by a letter which the Catholic Near East Welfare Association in New York addressed to U.N. Secretary Trygve Lie, asking that the United Nations investigate alleged desecrations of Catholic Holy Places in Palestine.

"Publication of the true position is deemed necessary to frustrate this clear attempt to disturb the good-will between the Israeli Government and the Catholic clergy in Israel," the statement said. "Soon after the war broke out, when it was clear that the Holy Places might figure in battle zones, strict orders were issued to Israeli troops enjoining the utmost respect for places of holy contents and association of all religions and directing that every possible measure be taken to safeguard the lives of ecclesiastic personnel.

"It is a source of deep gratification that these orders have been substantially fulfilled. The isolated transgressions by irresponsible individuals, which are regretted, took place in the first weeks of fighting and military occupation before effective security control had been instituted. Most of the offenders have been apprehended and punished.

"One instance is the looting of sacred objects from the Greek Catholic Church in Jaffa. This incident received wide publicity abroad. Publicity, however, was not given to the fact that the persons responsible were arrested, court-martialed and sentenced to six months' imprisonment and that the stolen property was restored to the church. The restoration was acknowledged in a letter of thanks from the curate to the military commander in Jaffa.

"Other cases of looting in the Galilee area are now subject to investigation. Deliberate exaggeration of such minor occurrences tends to overshadow the basic fact that, in six months of warfare, Israeli military operations have not directly caused the destruction of any church or sanctuary or death or injury to any ecclesiastic. Nazareth is at present out of bounds to Israeli troops and appreciation of this gesture of respect for Christian feeling has been conveyed in person to the Minister of Religious Affairs by the Christian clergy," the announcement said.

Meanwhile, the Spanish Consul-General in Jerusalem today expressed his thanks to the Israeli Ministry for Religious Affairs for the treatment accorded Spanish clergymen in Arab towns now under Israeli military occupation. The consul recently returned from a tour of Jaffa, Ramleh and Nazareth where Spanish clerics told him they were satisfied with the arrangements made for them by the Jewish authorities.

POLISH GOVERNMENT PLANNING TO TAKE OVER JEWISH SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN'S HOMES

WARSAW, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Preparations are now under way to take over the 22 schools operated by the Central Jewish Committee, a delegation from the Committee was informed today by Minister of Education Prof. Stanislaw Skrzyszewski.

At the same time, the Ministry announced that the government is willing to establish Jewish secondary trade schools if the Committee will guarantee that the enrollment will reach a given number. In academic schools where there are sufficiently large numbers of Jewish students, the government announcement added, special courses on Jewish subjects will be offered.

Minister Skrzyszewski also notified the Committee that the government is ready to take over all Jewish children's homes and institutions. He told the Committee deputation that in his opinion all Jewish schools in Poland which are not under the supervision of the Central Committee -- such as the various cultural centers and religious institutions -- should adapt their courses of instruction to the curricula offered in the Central Committee schools. This, he pointed out, would make the programs of all Jewish schools in Poland more uniform.

Previously, the Education Ministry announced that all Jewish schools and children's institutions in the country must form units of the Jewish Scouts Organization, which is a branch of the nation-wide Polish scout movement.

YIDDISH TO BE TAUGHT IN RUMANIAN SCHOOLS WITH AT LEAST 20 PERCENT JEWISH ENROLLMENT

BUCHAREST, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Yiddish language and literature courses will be introduced in all Rumanian schools whose enrollment contains 20 percent or more Jewish students, a Jewish Democratic Committee spokesman revealed today.

Jewish history as such will not be offered, however, the spokesman said, explaining that Jewish subject matter will be included in the general history courses which will be offered. The spokesman added that all schools with a large percentage of Jewish students will be permitted to offer instruction in Yiddish if the students so desire.

DP PHYSICIANS IN GERMANY TAKING REFRESHER COURSES; JEWISH ENGINEERS ISSUE MAGAZINE

MUNICH, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Refresher courses for DP physicians were begun here this week and will continue through October. Most of the instructors are visiting American specialists. Each course is limited to an enrollment of 70 to 80.

The first issue of a magazine published by the Association of Jewish Engineers in the U.S. zone of Germany appeared here today. The publication is trilingual -- Hebrew, Yiddish and German, with the emphasis on Hebrew. The magazine is entitled, "Hamehanderes Bagolah," (Engineer in the Diaspora).

SLOVAK JEWISH YOUTH JOIN INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WORKING ON RAILROAD IN PROVINCE

PRAGUE, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Slovak Jewish youth have already begun working on a railroad and automobile highway being built in Slovakia by the volunteer labor of youth organizations from many nations in Europe, it was announced here today by representatives of various Jewish youth organizations in the province. The Jewish youths recently erected their tents alongside the site of the construction and immediately went to work with volunteers from Bulgaria, Poland, Britain, Albania, France, Austria, Norway and Italy.

W.J.C. ASKS RED CROSS TO EXTEND WARTIME PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS TO RACIST VICTIMS

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress yesterday submitted a memorandum to the International Red Cross conference being held here suggesting that the scope of the present convention on the protection of civilians in wartime, which is being overhauled, be extended to cover emergencies caused by violence or disturbances against national, racial or religious groups even when these disturbances do not assume an international character, it was announced today.

The Congress also suggested that the convention protect persons of dual nationality, stateless persons and expatriates caught up in international conflicts -- a form of protection which might have saved the Jews in Nazi Germany, the Congress memorandum pointed out. It also called for the right of such persons to leave a territory where a conflict occurs and measures to prohibit their internment or enslavement for forced labor except to ensure the continuation of vital services. The document also asked that such persons be guaranteed food and medical supplies.

SEDITIONIST'S PLEA FOR RELEASE FROM JAIL ON WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS DENIED BY U.S. JUDGE

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- William Dudley Pelley, former leader of the anti-Jewish Silver Shirts, yesterday lost a new plea to win freedom from imprisonment when Federal Judge Walter C. Lindley turned down a request for a writ of habeas corpus requested on technical grounds. Pelley was sentenced to 15 years on sedition charges in 1942.

ISRAELI ENVOY DISCUSSES RECOGNITION OF JEWISH STATE WITH BRAZILIAN MINISTER

NEW YORK, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- The question of extending recognition to the state of Israel was discussed by Brazilian Foreign Minister Raul Fernandez and Moises A. Toff, Under-Secretary for Latin American Affairs of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, it was reported here today by the Israeli office. Mr. Toff arrived in Montevideo today to meet with Uruguayan officials following his visit to Brazil.

Benno Weiser has been appointed assistant director of the Latin American Department of the Jewish Agency, an announcement issued by the office of the Israeli Provisional Government here said. Weiser previously represented the Agency in Colombia and Ecuador and visited Venezuela as a liaison officer. He is a former president of the Zionist Organization of Ecuador.

ISRAELI SOCCER TEAM TO VISIT U.S. COMPOSED OF COUNTRY'S 18 LEADING ATHLETES

NEW YORK, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- The Israeli soccer team scheduled to play against the U.S. Olympic Soccer Team here next month will be composed of 18 top athletes from Israel's three leading sports groups -- Hapoel, Maccabi and Betar, it was revealed here today at a press conference by Samuel Stahl and Chaim Glovinsky, representing the Israel Football Association. Proceeds from the games which the Israelis will play will go to the United Jewish Appeal.

Stahl revealed that the Israeli athletes were withdrawn from front-line positions to train for their U.S. trip and that they are at present practicing in the former British Army base at Sarafand.

RED MOGEN DAVID ORGANIZED IN ARGENTINA; TO OPEN CAMPAIGN FOR FUNDS FOR AMBULANCES

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- The formal establishment of the Red Mogen David of Argentina was announced here today at a public meeting. The new organization is headed by Dr. Abel Priluk who announced that the first aim of the organization is to launch a drive for the collection of 700,000 pesos (\$175,000) with which to purchase ten United States ambulances for Israel.