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LAST MINUTE NEWS

LEBANESE RADIO CALLS ON ARAB LEADERS TO OPEN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE WITH ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- The Lebanese Government-controlled radio, in a statement monitored here today, said that direct Arab negotiations with Israel might bring a "reasonable solution" of the Palestine problem. This is the first official statement of any Arab League state on the matter of direct negotiation.

The Lebanese broadcaster, speaking in Arabic, declared that "the Arab leaders should decide without western pressure either to open direct negotiations with the Jews or to fight for the occupation of all Palestine. The Arabs cannot lose by direct negotiations," he stressed.

The commentator said that if the Arab leaders decide upon negotiations they would not be betraying their people, but would be trying to save life and restore the rights of the Palestine Arabs. The other alternative, he warned, was war in an attempt to occupy all Palestine at a cost of many Arab lives.

An Israeli spokesman here, commenting on the surprising broadcast, said that "if the report were correct, it shows a sense of reality as well as common sense, which if it grew would be a stabilizing factor in the Middle East."

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ARABS SHELL JEWISH POSITIONS IN JERUSALEM; GUERRILLAS BLOW UP CITY'S POWER STATION

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- Egyptian troops this morning and last night shelled four Jewish suburbs on the southern outskirts of Jerusalem, including Talpith and Arnona, an official Israeli communique announced today.

Talpith and Arnona are adjacent to the contested Red Cross enclave in which are situated the Jewish agricultural school, which was attacked by the Arabs several times this week, the Arab College and the former Mandatory's Government House. The communique revealed that Arab Legion troops dropped artillery shells on Jewish positions near Abu Tor and the Beit Israel quarter. Israeli troops returned the fire.

(The Reuter news Agency reported from Amman today that Jerusalem's electric power station had been blown up last night, allegedly by Arab irregulars.)

The Jewish Community Council of Jerusalem has informed Dr. Bernard Joseph, Israeli military governor, that it will accept the authority of the Israeli Government. At the same time, a Council delegation proposed that elections for the new Jerusalem municipality be held at the same time as the forthcoming Israeli national elections.

Isaac Ben Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council, today stated that the Jerusalem Jews resented their city being termed a "military occupied area" and their having a military governor. Ben Zvi demanded that the city be proclaimed Israel's capital, adding that there is no other solution for Jerusalem.

WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION WILL NOT REPRESENT ALL JEWS RESIDING OUTSIDE ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- A motion recommending that the World Zionist Organization should represent all Jews throughout the world residing outside of Israel was defeated here today at a meeting of a sub-committee appointed by the Zionist Actions Committee to deal with organizational affairs.

A delegation of editors complaining of Israeli political censorship was assured today by Premier David Ben-Gurion that a law will soon be promulgated limiting censorship to security matters.

Neither censorship nor the government can control the expression of any political views or prevent criticism of the government from a political viewpoint, Ben-Gurion said.

It was officially announced here today that the Jews detained in Cyprus have notified the British authorities there that they will declare a hunger strike in protest against a seven percent cut in food rations. They emphasized that the present food rations are already at a minimum level.

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES RELEASE BERGSON AND OTHER IRGUN LEADERS FROM IMPRISONMENT

TEL AVIV, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- Israeli authorities today released Peter Bergson, Jacob Meridor and three other Irgun members from jail. They had been detained for several weeks in connection with the unsuccessful Irgun attempt to land a cargo of arms off Tel Aviv during the second U.N. truce.

MILITARY ROUNDUP IN TEL AVIV RESULTS IN APPREHENSION OF FEW HUNDRED DRAFT DODGERS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- The screening operation which was started here several days ago by Israeli military authorities seeking to round up deserters and draft dodgers concluded today. More than 125,000 persons of military age have been processed in the city with only a few hundred draft dodgers discovered.

The Israeli High Court will open sessions in September, in time for the compiling of a register of voters for the November election, it was announced here today. The census is designed to enroll the entire population, including Arabs above the age of 15 years. Identity cards will be issued which will thereafter be the only legal identification document in Israel.

SHORTAGE OF COINS IN ISRAEL; STORES USE CHITS; GOVT. IMPORTS METAL FOR MINTING

TEL AVIV, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- A serious shortage of coins is now developing throughout Israel as a result of the government's decision not to issue banknotes of small denominations after calling in all such notes issued by the former Mandatory Power.

Restaurants and stores in Tel Aviv are meeting the situation by issuing chits. An official announcement said today that the government intends to import metals to mint coins.

AMERICAN JEWS URGED TO SUPPLY "FINANCIAL VISAS" TO ISRAEL-BOUND IMMIGRANTS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- A call to American Jews to supply "financial visas" for Israel-bound Jewish immigrants from Europe's DP camps was made here today by Dr. Israel Goldstein, co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, who spoke on the Israeli radio.

Asserting that now that the Jewish state has been established, at least 10,000 to 20,000 immigrants can enter Israel each month, Dr. Goldstein pledged that he will bring back "to my fellow Jews in America the mandate that lies on them -- to provide financial visas for those immigrants receiving political visas from the Israeli Government."

Mendel Fisher, executive director of the Jewish National Fund in the U.S., has just returned from a visit to the Negev settlements. Fisher, the first American to tour the Negev since the truce came into effect, told newsmen that the spirit of the Jewish soldiers under Egyptian fire was "marvellous."

Dr. M.C. Weiler, member of the World CRT executive, today disclosed a plan for the transfer of some 34,000 students in 1,000 schools throughout Europe to Israel, together with machinery and training equipment valued at some \$4,000,000. Since the war's end, Dr. Weiler said, the CRT has been teaching 45 different trades to European Jews.

ISRAEL DEMANDS INFORMATION FROM U.N. ON POSTING OF TRUCE OFFICIALS IN ARAB COUNTRIES

TEL AVIV, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- The U.N. Palestine mediator's chief of staff was reminded today by the Israeli Foreign Office that an Israeli request for information regarding the posting of U.N. truce observers in Arab countries has gone unanswered. The reminder note pointed out "although we are now in the sixth week of the second truce, we still know nothing of truce supervision in the Arab countries."

The mediator's chief of staff also received a message today from the head of the Israeli liaison mission to the United Nations, calling the U.N.'s attention to six reports emanating from various military quarters concerning alleged Arab preparations in violation of the truce agreement. The memorandum cited the following reports:

1. A fresh Egyptian brigade has been transferred from Egypt to the southern front, during the last few weeks.
2. Arabs residing in the Negev are being recruited for special units under command of Egyptian military officers.
3. An Iraqi battalion was recently transferred from Iraq to Mafrak, strategic Transjordan-Iraq base situated across the Jordan just inside Transjordan territory.
4. Large shipments of arms and munitions, brought into Syrian ports from abroad, have reached the Arab base at Kafar Kassen, located not far from Ras el Ain.
5. A number of large guns have been moved from the Syrian to the Lebanese front.
6. Several Syrian battalions have been transferred from Syria to stations in Upper Galilee.

In a subsequent letter to the U.N. representative, the Israeli Foreign Ministry wrote: "We understand that there is no supervision whatever on railway and highway traffic from Egypt to Palestine. Our chief of staff has expressed surprise that U.N. observers have not yet begun to check cargoes and reinforcements arriving by rail from Egypt or inspecting vessels known to make ports of call at Gaza and other points. We insist that this movement of war materiel and troops stop immediately and we would appreciate knowing as soon as possible what measures have been taken towards this," the letter said.

An Irgun radio broadcast last night said: "Our informant in London has advised us that Brig. John B. Glubb Pasha, Arab Legion commander, met with Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin and has been appointed to a high post as Bevin's adviser. Glubb told Bevin that the war in Palestine will start again soon. Then, Bevin's advisers asked what weapons were needed by the Arabs.

"Glubb replied -- one squadron of fighters, one of seaplanes, 2,000 trucks, and twenty to twenty-five 105 mm. cannon with 500 shells each," the broadcast continued.

The Legion commander then advised that if it is impossible to ship arms via Turkey, "Britain should send the arms to British stations in the Suez zone from where they will be turned over to the Egyptians for forwarding to the other Arab states," the broadcast added.

GREEK JEWISH LEADERS SEEK MODIFICATION OF NEW LAWS SUPPRESSING RELIGIOUS COURTS

LONDON, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- The Federation of Jewish Communities in Greece is studying measures to secure modification of recent legislation under which Jewish religious courts in Greece are being suppressed, it was reported here today from Athens.

The new Greek civil code was strongly protested by Federation representatives when it was first introduced. At that time, the Federation pointed out, the government was warned that the suppression of the traditional Beth Din in Greece would lead to "complications" among the country's Jews.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS APPEALS TO BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT TO ABROGATE ANTI-JEWISH DECREE

NEW YORK, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress today addressed a message to President Enrique Hertzog of Bolivia pointing out that the decree which he had signed authorizing the special investigation of the financial assets of all Semitic immigrants to Bolivia since 1937, "is the first instance of anti-Jewish legal discrimination after the collapse of the Axis powers and the first ever to be enacted in the Western Hemisphere."

Stressing the belief that President Hertzog probably did not realize the Nazi Nuremberg Law connotations of the act, Dr. Robert Marcus, political director of the Congress, said: "Unless Bolivia means to abrogate its obligations as a member of the United Nations and a signatory to the U.N. Charter prohibiting discrimination and promoting human rights, and to repudiate its democratic traditions, I am certain this decree will be amended or abrogated."

JEWISH HOSPITAL IN HUNGARIAN TOWN OPENED; FIRST TO BE ESTABLISHED IN PROVINCIAL AREA

BUDAPEST, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- The Jewish Hospital in the town of Dobrocon was opened today, with Jewish community leaders and Joint Distribution Committee officials joining in the dedication ceremonies. The institution has 60 beds and was constructed by the Dobrocon Jewish Community with the assistance of the J.D.C. It is the first Jewish hospital ever established in a provincial area.

Moses W. Bocklmann, vice-chairman of the J.D.C. European Council, who is now touring various agency installations throughout the Continent, was joined by the town's mayor and representatives of the Ministry of Welfare in marking the opening of the hospital. Several rabbis pronounced blessings at the ceremony.

HARRY ROSENFELD SWORN IN AS DP COMMISSIONER IN WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- Harry Rosenfield today was sworn in as a commissioner in the displaced persons program in a brief ceremony at the White House. Rosenfield, who has just returned from a United Nations conference in Switzerland, will immediately take up his duties with the other two commissioners in carrying out the program.

NEARLY FOURTH OF IMMIGRANTS WHO ENTERED CANADA IN FOUR MONTHS ENDING JULY WERE JEWS

OTTAWA, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- A total of 3,782 Jews was admitted to Canada during the four months ending July 31, it was revealed today. Approximately 16,500 displaced persons immigrated to Canada during the same period.

8/29/48

"ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL" SAYS TRUMAN AND MARSHALL ARE IN FULL ACCORD ON PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- American policy in Palestine has the complete accord of both President Truman and Secretary of State George Marshall, and reports that the two men differ on the Israel question are false and dangerous, the authoritative "Army and Navy Journal" declared today.

In a page one editorial, the highly influential but unofficial Journal castigated the circulation of "unfounded reports of differences in our high diplomatic command" over Palestine policy. "There is no truth whatever in the reports," the article stated. "It should be realized by everyone, and most especially the active friends of Israel, that the development and continuance of peace negotiations between the Jews and Arabs are of highest importance."

It emphasized that a serious threat to world peace is still inherent in the Palestine situation and that the issues are "so grave" that "while there is a real prospect of peace, nothing should be done to muddy the waters. It will be a real service to world peace to stop the circulation of false reports of important differences in Palestine policies," the article pointed out.

The Journal said it was featuring this editorial because of the "presence of U.S. military personnel in Palestine and of our naval vessels in the seas of that area."

MAJOR REUVEN DAFNI APPOINTED ISRAELI CONSUL FOR WEST COAST WITH OFFICE IN LOS ANGELES

NEW YORK, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- Major Reuven Dafni, of the Defense Army of Israel, has been appointed Israeli Consul for the West Coast with headquarters in Los Angeles, it was announced today.

Major Dafni, who has been serving with the Israeli Consulate General in New York as representative of the Israeli Defense Ministry, will assume his new post on October 1st. The West Coast consulate will be the second maintained in the United States by the Israeli Government. Major Dafni will have jurisdiction over Israeli consular activities in California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, and Nevada.

STATE DEPT. SAYS SEIZED YACHT WAS NOT GOING TO PALESTINE; VESSEL RELEASED

NEW YORK, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- A yacht seized last week by Coast Guard officials on suspicion that it might be sailed to Israel was released here today following a statement from the State Department that the U.S. Government is well satisfied that the vessel, a converted subchaser, was not going to Palestine and that it considers the case "completely closed." The owners -- John Lukens and Elliott Forrest -- said they planned to take the vessel to Europe as originally planned.

URUGUAYAN PRESS HAILS ARRIVAL OF ISRAELI UNDER-SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- MONTEVIDEO, Aug. 27. (JTA) -- The presence in this country of Israeli Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs Moïse Toff was hailed today by the Uruguyan press. Toff has already conferred with the American Ambassador to Uruguay, Foreign Minister L. Castellanos and several other leading diplomatic figures. He expects to meet with several high dignitaries tomorrow.

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