

JTA Daily News Bulletin

VOL. XV No. 214 (30th year)

Thursday, September 16, 1948

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

TENSION MOUNTS IN JERUSALEM; RENEWAL OF WAR ON LARGE SCALE IS CONSIDERED INEVITABLE

TEL AVIV, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- Domestic events in Israel as well as those abroad are being overshadowed by the mounting gravity of the situation in Jerusalem. The renewal of hostilities there, on a larger scale than before, appears almost inevitable.

Reports circulating here indicate that even today may be the Arab D-Day for a renewed large-scale attack on Jerusalem although the assault may come a few days later, according to some informants.

Continuous troop movements have been observed north and south of Jerusalem during recent months and the Israeli High Command is convinced that the Arabs are determined to make one big effort to capture all of Jerusalem and wipe out, accordingly, all earlier defeats.

Though it is known that there are considerable differences among members of the Arab League political committee, it appears that there is agreement over the attack on Jerusalem. Command of the assault will be entrusted to the Iraqi and the main attack, it is reported, will be executed by combined Iraqi and Transjordan forces, supported by irregulars recently organized by the Mufti of Jerusalem.

None of the three consular powers, the United States, Belgium and France, is in a position to provide forces to make Jerusalem a genuinely international city. And the latest Russian proposal, supporting internationalization, is seen as chiefly a proposal to embarrass the other powers rather than one designed specifically to solve the Jerusalem deadlock.

Arab Forces Considerably Reinforced: New Fortifications Erected

While there is certainty of renewed fighting in and about Jerusalem, it remains uncertain whether the fighting will spread to the other fronts. There has been no similar offensive maneuvering by either the Egyptians in the south or the Syrians in the north. But both have considerably reinforced their armies and have constructed new and substantial field fortifications.

The Israeli High Command estimated today that, during the period of the second truce, Arab forces on the Palestine front have been increased from less than 30,000 men, when the last full-scale fighting ended, to about 40,000 regulars and irregulars.

(Britain is shipping ammunition, weapons and uniforms to the Arab states whose armies have invaded Palestine, the New York Star, quoting "unimpeachable sources," reported today from Tel Aviv. A ship carrying 140 tons of ammunition and weapons has just docked at Beirut, the report said.)

SYRIAN GOVERNMENT REQUISITIONS JEWISH SCHOOLS IN DAMASCUS FOR USE AS REFUGEE HOSPITALS

TEL AVIV, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- The Syrian Government has confiscated Jewish schools in Damascus and has converted them into hospitals for Arab refugees from Palestine, it was reported here today. Jewish houses officially classified as "abandoned" have also been requisitioned by the government, the report added.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN CONFERES WITH B'NAI B'RITH HEAD ON PALESTINE SITUATION

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- President Truman conferred on the Palestine situation today with Frank Goldman, President of the B'nai B'rith, and Edward Jacobson, Kansas City friend of the President. Both White House callers later described their twenty-minute interview with Truman as "very satisfactory," but declined to list particulars of their talks, except to say that "we discussed the Palestine situation."

Meanwhile, at his weekly news conference, Secretary of State George C. Marshall stood on his recent comment that de jure recognition for Israel is a matter of timing. He refused to speculate on the accuracy of widespread press interpretation that his comment meant no recognition will be forthcoming until Israeli elections are held in November.

The C.I.O. today disclosed this text of a telegram C.I.O. president Philip Murray sent President Truman on September 10: "On behalf of the C.I.O., I want to urge that Israel should receive de jure recognition and consideration should be given to granting a substantial loan to the new state. We believe residents of displaced persons camps in Germany should be given permission to emigrate to Israel."

TRIAL OF TWO BRITONS CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE OPENS IN JERUSALEM; ADJOURNED TEMPORARILY

JERUSALEM, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- The trial of two Britons charged with collecting and passing on information concerning Israeli troop movements to the Arabs and of illegal possession of a radio transmitter opened in a Jerusalem district court today. The trial was adjourned shortly afterwards while the presiding judge decided whether to omit an additional charge against one of the defendants.

Both Frederick Sylvester and William George Hawkins, the defendants, were charged on all of the espionage counts. Sylvester was also charged with participating in the conspiracy which led to the Ben Yehuda Street explosion in Jerusalem which blasted a block of tenements and killed over 50 men, women and children earlier this year.

The defense attorney demanded that the extra charge be omitted because it would embarrass the witnesses and hamper the defense of the second defendant. Attorney General Jacob Shapiro argued that the indictment was drawn up in accordance with the law and demanded that Sylvester be charged on all counts. The court reserved judgment.

JEWISH SCULPTOR HONORED BY POLISH GOVERNMENT FOR STATUE ON GHETTO HEROES

WARSAW, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- Nathan Rappaport, noted Jewish sculptor, was decorated here with the Order Polonia Restituta, Poland's highest award, for his monument commemorating the heroes of the Warsaw ghetto. The monument was unveiled last April in Warsaw in honor of the Jews who revolted against the Nazis in 1943.

AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT TO CONSIDER RESTITUTION LAW FOR RETURN OF RESIDENTIAL PREMISES

VIENNA, Sept. 15. (JTA) - A restitution law providing for the return of residential, business and farming premises to Austrians deprived of them by Nazi persecution is scheduled to be placed before the Austrian parliament at its forthcoming fall session, it was learned here today.

The bill, entitled the Fifth Restitution Law, has been in the making for many months. After lengthy discussions and consultations with representatives of Jewish and non-Jewish victims of the Nazis, the Austrian Cabinet finally submitted the measure to parliament last May 28. Since then it has been shunted about between the legislature and several parliamentary committees and sub-committees.

The proposed legislation limits the obligations of restitution to persons who can be connected with the original alienation of the property from the rightful owners. It is based on the theory that the original leasehold rights never ceased to exist, but the claims are governed by rigid limitations on those seeking the return of their premises.

For example, the claimant must have been subjected to political persecution by or under the Nazi regime. The present owner must be the immediate successor in interest to the claimant, or must have participated in the alienation. "Participation" is assumed if the present owner occupied the premises in the period from March 13, 1938, to December 31, 1942.

The bill attempts to define the persons who can be claimants and those who can be "immediate successors." If a property remained vacant for more than three months after being seized -- which was often the case -- the person who benefited by the seizure may be able to retain control of the property by denying that he is the "immediate successor."

VIRTUALLY NO JEWISH DP'S IN AUSTRIA WILL BE ADMITTED TO U.S. UNDER DP LAW, CARUSI SAYS

VIENNA, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- The U.S. Displaced Persons Immigration Law virtually excludes all the Jewish refugees at present in the DP camps of Austria, Ugo Carusi, American DP Commissioner, admitted upon his arrival here today.

Carusi, who is now in Europe to organize immigration permitted under the Law, said he was unable to explain why President Truman termed the law anti-Semitic. He also admitted, in response to newsmen's questions, that former Nazi and Fascist Volksdeutsche are not excluded under the terms of the legislation, adding that membership in former Nazi organizations is not considered as aiming at the overthrow of the United States Government. He said that he hoped that individual screening would weed out fascists and prevent their infiltration of the U.S.

It is believed here that the ten percent of Austria's 14,000 Jewish DP's who had hoped to go to America will be forced to change their minds and apply for immigration to Israel instead.

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY CELEBRATES 100 ANNIVERSARY; 1,500 JEWISH IMMIGRANTS ENTER

MELBOURNE, Australia, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- The Adelaide Jewish community will celebrate its 100 anniversary this week-end. Several large celebrations have been scheduled and Jewish leaders from all the other provincial capitals and major cities of Australia will participate in the ceremonies. Adelaide is the capital of the province of Adelaide, in southeastern Australia.

A total of 1,520 Jewish immigrants from Europe and elsewhere entered this country during the past year, it was reported here today. Almost every immigrant was a former DP.

LAW ENDING DISCRIMINATION IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES BECOMES EFFECTIVE IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- The first state law aimed at ending racial and religious discrimination by colleges and universities went into effect today in New York. The state Fair Educational Practices Act forbids discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed or national origin. Only non-sectarian schools are barred from refusing to accept a student on account of his religion.

The law, which will regulate the practices of 97 non-sectarian and 29 sectarian institutions of higher learning, will be administered by Frederick W. Hoeing, former field investigator for the State Commission Against Discrimination in Employment. Hoeing will work under the direction of the State Education Commissioner.

Under the terms of the law complaints of discrimination must be filed with the Education Commissioner, after which the matter will be investigated by Hoeing. He will seek to gain admittance to a college or university for the complainant if the complaint is found to be justified. In the event that the school refuses to admit the student, Hoeing will file his report with the Board of Regents, state governing body for the colleges and universities. The Board of Regents may order a public hearing where witnesses and records may be subpoenaed. In the event of defiance by the school, the Board may obtain an enforcing order from the State Supreme Court under contempt proceedings.

Hoeing will present a set of proposed regulations, policies and procedures to the Board of Regents on Friday. The Board is expected to consult with schools and minority bodies before making a final decision on Hoeing's proposals. Hoeing, meanwhile, has refused to comment on his proposals, but indicated that he will operate along the lines presently used by the employment commission.

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL REJECTS MOTION TO ENDORSE BOYCOTT OF BRITISH GOODS

NEW YORK, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- A resolution urging the New York City Council to endorse the boycott of British goods and motion pictures in this country was last night defeated by a vote of 18-1.

In leading the opposition against the measure, Majority Leader Joseph T. Sharkey told the Council that the Israeli Government does not approve of any anti-British boycott and quoted Arthur Lourie, Israeli Consul General in New York, as allegedly having stated to him that the resolution was "Communist inspired" and "an effort to weaken Britain for the benefit of Soviet Russia."

Lourie today sent a telegram to Councilman Sharkey terming the remarks attributed to him "pure invention." "I must express my regret and amazement at your statement if you have been correctly quoted. It would moreover be quite improper for the Government of Israel to take any position on a resolution introduced into the New York City Council," the message said.

VAAH HATZALA CONFERENCE URGES DP CHANGES TO PERMIT ENTRANCE OF MORE JEWS TO U.S.

NEW YORK, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- An all-day conference of the Vaad Hatzala, Orthodox relief and rescue organization, today adopted resolutions urging changes in the DP immigration law which would make more displaced Jews eligible for admission to the U.S. and which would define as a DP any person who is in temporary refuge in a country outside the occupied zones and who cannot return to his country of origin for political or religious reasons.

Other resolutions at the parley urged the U.N. to accept Israel's application for membership and called for the organization and maintenance of more schools in Europe by the organization. A budget of \$750,000 for 1949 was also presented.

ISRAEL DAY CELEBRATED AT NEW YORK CITY'S "GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY EXPOSITION"

NEW YORK, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- The establishment of close ties of friendship between the United States and the new Jewish State can hasten the coming of peace and the development of Israel as the youngest democracy in the Middle East, it was declared today at the observance of Israel Day at the Golden Anniversary Exposition of the City of New York. The guests of honor at the Israel Day ceremonies were a delegation of young Israeli war heroes who arrived in the United States recently for a nationwide tour in behalf of the \$250,000,000 United Jewish Appeal campaign.

Acting on behalf of Mayor William O'Dwyer, Grover A. Whalen, chairman of the Mayor's Committee for the Golden Anniversary, told the Israeli soldiers that "the City of New York is proud of the opportunity to receive representatives of Israel, the youngest democracy in the world. New York justly takes pride in the fact that many of its citizens have made signal contributions to the rebuilding of a homeland for the homeless and oppressed Jews of the world, just as it is proud of the fact that many of those homeless and oppressed who were in past years given haven here have played a major role in the growth of the City, the 50th anniversary of which we are now celebrating," Whalen declared.

"We, in the largest city of the greatest democracy of the world, welcome the occasion of Israel Day to express our admiration for the courage and heroism of the people of Israel, who have taken on the tremendous job of building a new nation, despite almost overwhelming odds. We are confident that Israel will grow and prosper, and I know that the people of New York will continue all possible assistance to the builders and defenders of Israel through the United Jewish Appeal.

Insignia of Israeli Army Presented to Mayor's Representative

Lieutenant Shula Friedberg, of the Israeli Army's Women's Corps, presented an official insignia of the Israeli Army to Whalen. A miniature sword, around which an olive branch is entwined, the insignia, Lt. Friedberg told Whalen, signified "Israel's strong desire for peace, and its equally strong determination to defend itself against all those who seek to deny it the opportunity to rebuild the Jewish nation on the ancient soil of Israel."

Captain Yehuda Koppel, a veteran of Israel's major battles who saw service with the British Army during World War II, speaking for the delegation, said that "we wish to convey to the people of New York the gratitude of the people of Israel for their support in the upbuilding of the Jewish homeland."

Official greetings from the Government of Israel were voiced at the reception by Arthur Lourie, Israeli Consul General in New York, who expressed his appreciation for the designation of Israel Day by the Mayor's Committee. Pointing out that the state of Israel could not have come into being without sympathy and assistance from the United States, and from the people of New York in particular, Lourie said that "50 years from now, at similar celebrations in Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities, New York will be honored for its expressions of friendship today."

9/16/48

WORLD CONGRESS FOR YIDDISH CULTURE OPENS TODAY IN NEW YORK; WILL MEET FOR FIVE DAYS

NEW YORK, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- Problems concerning the strengthening of Yiddish cultural life in the United States, Latin America and European countries will be discussed here at the World Yiddish Cultural Congress, which opens tomorrow at Carnegie Hall.

Delegates from all parts of the world, except from countries under Soviet domination, will participate in the five-day deliberations. The Congress, which is expected to establish a central world organization to promote Yiddish cultural activities, will be attended by about 400 delegates from the United States and Canada and more than 100 delegates from 20 foreign countries.

Principal speakers at the opening session will be Prof. L. Hersch of Switzerland; David Pinsky, noted Jewish playwright; S. Niger, leading Jewish critic; Samuel Rozhinsky, prominent journalist of Buenos Aires; and Jacob Pat, author and executive secretary of the Jewish Labor Committee.

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF AVIATION IN ISRAEL WILL SPONSOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AIR SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- The American Friends of Aviation in Israel today opened a campaign for members whose dues will help sponsor the establishment of aeronautical schools, the training of pilots and ground crews and the creation of a civil and auxiliary aviation program in Israel.

"The General Council of Aviation in Israel has undertaken to give aeronautical courses to 1,500 of the Israeli youth. The funds from membership dues collected by the American Friends of Aviation in Israel will help make that project possible," the announcement said.

ALLIANCE ISRAELITE WILL REBUILD ITS SCHOOLS IN ISRAEL; INCREASES ACTIVITIES IN IRAN

NEW YORK, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- The Alliance Israelite Universelle will rebuild its schools in Tel Aviv and Safad, which were destroyed in the course of hostilities, it was announced here today by Jules Braunschwig, vice-president of the Alliance, upon his arrival from Paris. The organization is also opening new classes for 2,000 additional pupils in its schools in Iran, Braunschwig reported.

ZVI WACHSMAN, JEWISH JOURNALIST, DIES SUDDENLY; WAS ASSOCIATE OF VLADIMIR JABOTINSKY

MONTREAL, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- Zvi E. Wachsmann, journalist and vice-president of the Palestine Pioneers Foundation, a Revisionist institution, died here last night of a heart attack. He was 48.

Wachsmann was an associate of the late Revisionist leader Vladimir Jabotinsky, with whom he served in the Jewish Legion in World War I. He was the author of a number of books in Yiddish, Hebrew and German. His body will be removed for burial to New York where he lived since 1940.