

Monday, September 27, 1948

JTA Daily News Bulletin

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

ACTING U.N. MEDIATOR WARNS ISRAEL AND TRANSJORDAN TO ORDER IMMEDIATE END TO FIGHTING

TEL AVIV, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Acting U.N. Palestine mediator Dr. Ralph Bunche today warned the Israeli and Transjordan Governments to order immediately an end to fighting in the Midya and Latrun areas and demanded that both governments release an earlier "hold fire" order along the entire Israel-Transjordan front. Bunche called for the reestablishment of pre-truce positions.

An official communique said today that six badly mutilated bodies of Jewish soldiers were found near Midya--about 15 miles east of Lydda--when Israeli units recaptured the town late yesterday. Unofficial reports said that additional Jewish casualties occurred during the first surprise attack by Iraqi troops against Jewish positions in Midya. Although the Jews were compelled to withdraw following the initial assault, Israeli reinforcements later took back the town from the Iraqis. Commenting bitterly on the report of the mutilated bodies, an official Israeli spokesman said: "One would have thought that even after death, the rules of civilization applied to war casualties."

From Jerusalem it was reported that three enemy planes, apparently Egyptian, appeared over the city today causing a one-hour alert. Jewish anti-aircraft opened fire against the planes but there was no immediate available information as to the results of the barrage. Israeli troops in Jerusalem last night dispersed enemy concentrations in several sectors of the city. Two Israeli soldiers were wounded during the night.

Reports that the Arabs planned to seize the New City in Jerusalem last week, but were thwarted by the Israeli Army, circulated here over the week-end. No comment was forthcoming from Israeli Army headquarters on these reports.

Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok paid a brief visit to Jerusalem and conferred with army leaders on the present military situation. Earlier, members of the Jerusalem Consular Truce Commission met with Israeli military governor Dr. Bernard Joseph to discuss the question of demilitarizing the city. Commission members, headed by U.S. Consul-General John J. MacDonald, also took up the question of providing relief supplies to more than 80 Jewish policemen who have been stranded on Mt. Scopus for the past eight weeks.

Israeli State Council to Consider Bernadotte's Final Report Today

Count Folke Bernadotte's final recommendations to the United Nations for resolving the Palestine dispute will be considered at a meeting of the State Council's Foreign Affairs Committee tomorrow. Following the meeting, Foreign Minister Shertok will participate in a special closed session of the State Council. Shertok will leave for Paris in a few days to head the Israeli mission to the U.N.

The government committee preparing for the forthcoming general elections decided today to establish an election board made up of all parties represented in the State Council. This would automatically exclude the Irgun's "Freedom Movement," which has no representation in the Council.

REPORT ISRAELI DELEGATION AT U.N. WARNED BY RUSSIANS NOT TO YIELD TO WESTERN PRESSURE

PARIS, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Members of the Soviet delegation to the U.N. General Assembly, in confidential talks with Israeli representatives here, have inferred that if Israel yields to western pressure and accepts the Bernadotte recommendations as a basis for peace negotiations, the Soviet Union will withdraw its support from the Jewish state, it was reported here today in well-informed quarters.

This disclosure came following a bitter denunciation of the Western powers by Andrei Vishinsky, deputy Soviet Foreign Minister, for "sabotaging" the previous U.N. decision on Palestine. "Influential members of the United Nations," he charged, "are using their authority not to implement the General Assembly's recommendations, but on the contrary to put into effect measures which are fundamentally contradictory to these recommendations."

Vishinsky charged that the Security Council, by its failure to carry out the General Assembly's Nov. 29 partition decision, "pushed the Arabs and the Jews down the road to war."

British delegation members have approached Greek envoys to the U.N. with a request that they support speedy Assembly action on Count Bernadotte's plan. It was learned today that the head of the Greek delegation promised the British that he would try to obtain approval from his government in behalf of Bernadotte's recommendations, despite the Greeks' consistently pro-Arab attitude.

(Reynolds News, in London, quoted a Paris correspondent today as declaring that a sensation occurred in the U.N. after it was learned that six Arab states are opposed to Transjordan's U.N. membership application on the grounds that King Abdullah is unwilling to accept the late mediator's conclusion that Israel is an unutterable fact. "This is the most serious rift in the Arab camp since the Arab League was established, and is having wide repercussions," the paper reported.)

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR COUNT BERNADOTTE HELD IN SWEDEN; EBAN PARTICIPATES IN LAST RITES

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Aubrey S. Eban, head of the Israeli delegation to the U.N., participated today at funeral services here for Count Folke Bernadotte. Top U.N. officials, including U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie and chief of the British delegation Sir Alexander Cadogan, also witnessed the funeral services.

Dr. J. Wolfberg, newly-appointed Israeli representative to Scandinavia, declared upon his arrival here today that "I am convinced that democratic Sweden understands us."

Asserting that the Israeli Government deeply regrets the murder of Count Bernadotte, Dr. Wolfberg voiced the hope that the Scandinavian countries--especially Sweden, "which has done so much for Jewish refugees--will soon recognize Israel. The state of Israel belongs to western culture," Dr. Wolfberg stated. "The way to secure peace is for all western democracies to grant it recognition."

General Aage Lundstroem, chief-of-staff to the late mediator, charged today that the Israeli Government worked against Count Bernadotte and the U.N. truce observers. In an interview in a Stockholm newspaper, Lundstroem said that Bernadotte's proposal of June 28 to place Jerusalem under Arab protection was based on "had experience" with the partition of larger cities such as Berlin and Vienna. This proposal was rejected not only by Jewish extremists, Lundstroem charged, but also by the Israeli Government which, he said, wanted a quick armed decision in Jerusalem.

9/27/48

HELDERS OF "ARYANIZED" PROPERTY IN VIENNA PREVENTED FROM HOLDING MEETING BY NAZI VICTIMS

VIENNA, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Turbulent scenes such as Vienna has not witnessed for a long time occurred today when 700 Nazis holders of "Aryanized" property, tried to hold a public meeting in order to demonstrate against the Austrian restitution laws.

These measures for restoring to former owners or their heirs property which had been confiscated or taken by forced sale under the Nazis have been the subject of earlier protests by an organization to "protect the legal rights of those now holding Aryanized property. Just before today's meeting the group distributed an eight-page booklet demanding relief from the "injustices" of the restitution laws.

Charging that the organization is composed mainly of former Nazis, Austrians who were formerly concentration camp inmates have decided to demand that the Minister of the Interior, Oskar Helmer, order the immediate dissolution of the "Aryanized" property-owners' organization, on the ground that it is "Nazi-tainted."

Before today's meeting could be called to order, a group called the "Schutzverband" (protective league), composed of about 100 former concentration camp inmates and Austrian "fighters for freedom" (World War II underground), entered the room at the Wlberger restaurant where it was being held. Most of the group's members are non-Jewish.

Several Schutzverband members mounted the platform and one of them addressed the gathering, saying that Austrian democrats, particularly those who suffered personally under the Nazis, would not allow a public meeting to be held by Nazis, even if the meeting and the organization holding it had the permission of the Ministry of the Interior.

The speaker then asked the assemblage to leave the room. The majority declined to do so and shouted anti-Semitic slogans. The Schutzverband then formed a line and forced the Nazis out of the building. Many hand-to-hand fights took place, with swinging of chairs and brandishing of fists, but nobody was hurt. After the room was cleared, the police closed the meeting and broke up the fights continuing in the streets. The police behaved with moderation and made no arrests.

GROUP SET UP IN BULGARIA TO REGULATE EMIGRATION OF JEWS TO ISRAEL; REGISTRY OFFICES OPENED

SOFIA, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- The emigration of Bulgarian Jews to Israel will be supervised and regulated by the new central consistory, it was announced here today.

The new group is made up of ten Zionists, ten Communists, three Socialists and two independents. Migration registry offices have been opened in various parts of Bulgaria. The consistory will be responsible for all transportation arrangements to the Jewish state.

ISRAELI ENVOY TO U.S. MEETS WITH ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE; SAYS JEWS SEEK PEACE TALKS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Israeli representative to the United States Eliahu Epstein told newsmen over the week-end that what "we want are not new proposals, but to come together with the Arabs" in an effort to achieve peace.

The Israeli envoy made this statement following a brief call upon Acting Secretary of State Robert A. Lovett. Replying to a question as to his attitude towards Count Bernadotte's recommendations for resolving the Palestine dispute, Epstein said he had told Lovett that "many of these new proposals are at the expense of Israel."

9/27/48

AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS HAVE NOT KEPT PROMISES MADE TO JEWISH LEADERS OVER SIX MONTHS AGO

VIENNA, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Dr. David Shapira, President of the Vienna Jewish Community, charged today that none of the promises made by leading Austrian government officials some six months ago have been fulfilled. Consequently, Dr. Shapira told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the 10,000 Jews in Vienna are extremely dissatisfied with the delay in property restitution and inadequate housing facilities.

Although Dr. Leopold Figl, Austrian Chancellor, asked Peter Krauland, Minister for Property Control, to consult with Jewish leaders on questions of restitution, Dr. Shapira declared, Krauland asserted that "the Vienna Jewish Community must be regarded as a religious institution, the same as the Catholic or Protestant Church."

Dr. Shapira said that Krauland told him that "since the other two religious institutions are not permitted to delegate special advisors to restitution meetings," an exception cannot be made in the case of the Jewish community. Shapira expressed the belief that the delay in restitution stems from a basic lack of good will on the part of the government, as well as insufficient qualified restitution personnel. He said that there are at present many former Nazis and Nazi sympathizers holding jobs in the Ministry of Property Control.

GERMAN JEWS ASK MASS MIGRATION TO ISRAEL; URGE I.R.O. TO PAY TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES

MUNICH, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- A resolution demanding mass emigration of DP's from Germany to Israel, was adopted here today at a quarterly meeting of the Council of the Liberated Jews of Germany.

Another resolution called on the Joint Distribution Committee to expand its aid program to the DP's because currency reforms and other conditions are affecting adversely their living standards. Other resolutions asked the Jewish Central Committee to establish a special emigration department and urged the I.R.O. to pay transportation charges for Jews going to Israel.

J.N.F. OPENS OFFICE IN FRANKFURT; 2,500 JEWS LEFT ZONE FOR ISRAEL DURING JULY

MUNICH, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund has opened an office in Frankfurt in order to launch a fund-raising campaign in that area, it was revealed here today. Dr. Wilhelm Weinberg, chief rabbi of the province of Hesse, Dr. Kurt Epstein, former Hesse commissioner for persecutees, will direct the J.N.F. drive from the Frankfurt office.

An English-language weekly newspaper entitled, "News Of Palestine," has been launched here by the Jewish Agency. Of an informational character, the newspaper will be disseminated chiefly among the occupation authorities throughout Germany. Earlier, the Agency revealed that a total of 2,500 displaced Jews in the U.S. zone of Germany left for Israel during July and the first half of August. All of these immigrants traveled via Marseilles.

A third large transport of Israel-bound Jewish DP's left here yesterday en route to Marseilles, where they will board immigrant vessels sailing to the Jewish state. The transport included numerous families with small children.

WORKING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN JEWISH COMMUNITIES, NATIONAL AGENCIES URGED AT CJFWF PARLEY

CLEVELAND, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Declaring that American Jewish philanthropic responsibilities in Israel, Europe and the United States are of "awe-inspiring proportions," Stanley C. Myers, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, today called for a working partnership between Jewish communities in the United States and national and overseas agencies to meet these needs. He spoke at the opening session here of the 16th annual conference of the Council's east central region.

Myers told the 200 delegates attending the meeting that "new horizons" demanded careful planning of philanthropic goals of community organizations. "The C.J.F.W.F., he declared, was interested in promoting teamwork among all sections of American Jewry. "We are seeking to mobilize all forces in Jewish life to overcome common problems which beset us, and to enrich our group ideals and patterns of life," he said.

"The communities of America," he added, "have demonstrated their ability and leadership in fund-raising. They have proven their integrity to decide on issues on the basis of fact, not the temporary whim, enthusiasm or partisan approach. We have earned the trust and confidence of national agencies. We have earned the right to full partnership, and full participation in national affairs and to assert that right actively.

"No one program of Jewish action, whether in America, Europe or Palestine, can be really strong, if the others are neglected. More than ever before, we need the kind of vision, the kind of understanding, the kind of strength and courage which will see all needs as inseparable parts of the totality of our obligations," Myers asserted.

"NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ISRAEL" TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO ON NOV. 6-7 UNDER UPA AUSPICES

NEW YORK, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- A "National Conference for Israel to map American Jewry's participation in the prospective liquidation of the Jewish DP camps in Europe and the resettlement in Israel of homeless Jews" will be held by the United Palestine Appeal in Chicago on November 6th and 7th, it was announced here today. More than 3,000 delegates from Jewish communities in all parts of the United States are expected to attend.

EDDIE CANTOR RECEIVES 1948 "CITATION FOR HUMANITARIANISM" FROM UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Eddie Cantor was today awarded the 1948 "Citation for Humanitarianism" of the United Jewish Appeal. Samuel Goldwyn, prominent screen producer and president of the U.J.A. drive in this city, presented the award to Mr. Cantor during a nation-wide U.J.A. broadcast. The noted stage, screen and radio star recently completed an on-the-spot survey of conditions among the displaced Jews in Europe, following which he set out on a three-week speaking engagement in behalf of the U.J.A.

ISRAELI SOCCER TEAM, IN FIRST GAME OF NATIONWIDE SERIES, LOSES WITH SCORE OF 3-1

NEW YORK, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- The Israeli National Soccer Team, in its first of a series of games in this country, lost today in a match with the U.S. Olympics Team at the Polo Grounds. Close to 50,000 persons witnessed the contest, which resulted in a 3-1 score. Proceeds of the games which the Israeli soccer players will play will go to the United Jewish Appeal.

THE CONTENTS OF THIS BULLETIN ARE NOT FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION