

JTA *Daily News Bulletin*

VOL. XV No. 272 (30th year)

Monday, November, 29, 1948

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

ISRAEL TO APPLY FOR U.N. MEMBERSHIP IMMEDIATELY; FAVORABLE SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION SEEN

PARIS, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- On the eve of Nov. 29, exactly one year after the United Nations General Assembly adopted the historic decision to establish an independent Jewish state in Palestine, Israel is about to submit its application for U.N. membership.

Whether the formal application will be made tomorrow--on the first anniversary of the Assembly's partition resolution--or later in the week, the Israeli delegation has decided to apply without delay, it was learned here today. The Israelis are confident of achieving the necessary seven votes in the Security Council.

Member states expected to vote in favor of the membership application are Argentina, Canada, Colombia, France, the Soviet Union, the Ukraine and the United States. While Argentina has in the past not displayed particular friendship for Israel's cause, universality of membership is known to be the keystone of Argentine policy in the U.N.

Canada, Colombia and the United States have all spoken strongly in favor of Israel's admission, during the debate on Palestine in the Assembly's Political Committee. It appears certain that neither Britain nor China will vote against Israel's admission, thus eliminating the threat of a veto. There is speculation here, however, that Syria might walk out if the Israeli application should be considered before Jan. 1 when Egypt will succeed to the Middle Eastern seat on the Council.

The Council will have to act promptly if Israel's admission is to be ratified by the present Assembly session, which is scheduled to adjourn Dec. 11. Approval by the Assembly requires a two-thirds majority of the member states present and voting.

BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE PROPOSES SEIZURE OF ISRAELI FUNDS FROZEN IN LONDON

PARIS, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- The British Foreign Office has proposed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps, that he seize the whole remaining balance of Israel's sterling deposits in the United Kingdom, as security for reparations to be paid by Israel to the Palestinian Arab refugees, it was learned today in informed United Nations circles. The total amount involved is stated to be \$140,000,000-\$160,000,000.

The proposal is now under active consideration. It has already resulted in the holding up by the Bank of England of the current release of sterling which was due Oct. 15. This quarterly allocation of \$28,000,000 is now six weeks overdue. It was to have covered Israel's purchases of essential foodstuffs in the sterling area and in the United States and Argentina.

Inquiries in London revealed that hitherto the allocation has been made within 48 hours of application. In reply to a request for the current release, it has been indicated that the release was held up on political grounds, connected first

with fighting in the Negev, then with sanctions discussions at the U.N. and finally because of the present refugee reparations question.

Israeli banking agents in London have been told that while on previous occasions the decision was made by the Bank of England authorities, the Bank had to refer the current payment to the Treasury for a decision. At the Treasury, it was stated that the whole matter had to be referred to the Foreign Office--and there it rests at the moment. One of the largest and most powerful British firms also met with a blank refusal by the Treasury to have Palestine sterling released for trading purposes.

SECURITY COUNCIL NEGEV UNIT STUDIES REPORTS OF ARAB PREPARATIONS FOR NEW BATTLES

PARIS, Nov. 28, (JTA) -- The United Nations Security Council's seven-nation sub-committee on the Negev adjourned this week-end as reports arrived here from southern Palestine indicating the probability of an imminent resumption of fighting in the Negev.

Details of those reports are being studied at the Palais de Chaillot. They show that the Arab League Council has evidently concluded that the Jews will stay in the Negev and they will be able to do so under acting mediator Ralph J. Bunche's interpretation of the Security Council's resolution.

This was the breaking point in the Arab League's discussion in Cairo last week on its future policy, it was learned here. Up to this point, the growing weight of opinion among the Arab leaders in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Transjordan and the Lebanon was for calling off the war. This view was strongly encouraged by the persuasion used by official British sources in Paris and in Cairo, which assured the Arabs that the Council action initiated by Britain would lead to the forced withdrawal of the Jews and that in due course the Arabs would be reestablished in the Negev.

It was reported here that the Arab League decision, in the face of the Israeli occupation of the desert, was that it must be met by a counter-move by the Arab states. A concentration of Arab troops has been reported to be taking place at three main points:

The first is directed toward the area north of Gaza on the coast, apparently aimed at recapturing Majdal. A second, complementary concentration is also in this area, but directed at the relief of the encircled Egyptian brigade at Faluja. The third, and most serious, concentration is on the BeerSheva front. Iraqi troops are reported to be moving into Bethlehem with Arab legion units, joining the Egyptians already in Bethlehem and Hebron.

Arab Attack Feared During Period When Security Council Cannot Meet

U.N. sources here see this as a prelude for a combined swift Arab thrust to recapture strategic points in the Negev. There is grave concern here that the Arabs may decide to use the dead period of the Security Council, between Dec. 16 and 31 when the Council will literally be at sea between Paris and Lake Success and no meetings will be held. That would give the Arabs about ten days to carry out concentrated operations.

Meanwhile, another complication has arisen. King Abdullah of Transjordan indicated to the British that he was not overjoyed by the proposed present of the Negev. It would add to the responsibilities of his already strained administration without bringing any cash or political benefit. This has led once more to a re-adjustment of Britain's Negev policy. Egypt--not Transjordan--is now scheduled by the British to become the main guardian of the Negev.

BULGARIA RECOGNIZES ISRAEL; DIPLOMATIC, TRADE RELATIONS TO START SOON

SOFIA, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- The Sofia radio announced over the week-end that the Bulgarian cabinet had decided to recognize the state of Israel. The Bulgarian Government will immediately establish diplomatic and trade relationships with the Israeli Government.

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS IN JERUSALEM ANNOUNCES FULL CEASE-FIRE EXPECTED SOON

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- United Nations truce headquarters here tonight announced that as a result of a meeting today between Israeli commander Col. Moshe Dayan and the Arab Legion head, Lt. Col. Abdullah El Tel, a complete cease-fire is expected soon in the Jerusalem area.

"Excellent progress was made," the U.N. communique said, adding: "It is expected that a full accord for a complete, sincere cease-fire agreement will be reached in the near future for the Jerusalem area." Jewish military sources had nothing more to add to the U.N. statement.

4,000 BULGARIAN JEWS ARRIVE IN HAIFA; IMMIGRATION MINISTER SHAPIRA GREETS THEIR ARRIVALS

TEL AVIV, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- Four thousand Bulgarian Jewish immigrants arrived at Haifa this week-end and were welcomed by Minister of Immigration Moshe Shapira. The arrivals sang Hatikvah as their vessel approached the shores of Israel. A huge picture of Premier David Ben Gurion aboard the ship was visible from the shore.

Meanwhile, 100 displaced Jews arrived at Haifa by air from Munich. The first plane load of 36 Jewish refugees from Austria arrived this week-end at the Lydda airport.

The Arab countries are holding their Jewish citizens "hostage" as a weapon in their war against Israel, Jacob Zerubavel, head of the Jewish Agency department for Jews living in Moslem countries, declared here today at a press conference in connection with a parley discussing measures to aid the Jews residing among the Arabs. The "rescue of 1,000,000 Jews in Arab countries must be Israel's and Jewry's first and foremost task," Zerubavel added.

Zerubavel will leave for abroad within a short time to meet with representatives of the World Jewish Congress and other groups to organize rescue work, he told newsmen. At the same conference, a Jewish leader who recently visited North Africa reported that 500,000 Jews living in that area desire to migrate to Israel.

U.J.A. DELEGATION IN ISRAEL TOURS NEGEV SETTLEMENTS, ARMY POSTS; TO VISIT JERUSALEM

TEL AVIV, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- The 34-member United Jewish Appeal delegation touring Israel studying the absorption of DP immigrants into the Jewish state's economy this week-end returned from a visit to Jewish settlements and Israeli Army positions in the Negev. The delegation is scheduled to leave for Jerusalem tomorrow.

Max Ogust and Justice Benjamin Shalleck, co-chairmen of the group, and N. Gilimovsky, its secretary, declared that they understand and share Israel's request to the world that it be allowed to continue the agricultural development of the Negev. The land, which has lain idle for centuries, the U.J.A. leaders said, is not only a matter of life and death for Israel but is also a challenge to the conscience of the world.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION OF LABOR PALESTINE GROUP URGES U.S. AID TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- A resolution appealing to President Truman to give full de jure recognition to Israel, remove the embargo on arms shipments to Israel and to extend a loan to the Jewish state for constructive purposes was adopted here today at the closing session of the Silver Anniversary convention of the National Committee for Labor Palestine. The various sessions of the parley were attended by 3,000 delegates from 325 cities throughout the United States.

The resolution also called on the U.S. delegation to the United Nations to follow President Truman's directives on Israel. The 20 nations which have already recognized Israel were urged to help the Jewish state achieve U.N. membership and to bring pressure to bear on the Arab states to withdraw their armies from Palestine. The resolution, which expressed the organization's support of Israel and the Histadruth, also pledged its resources "to help bring our brethren to Israel, where they may once again enjoy independence, freedom and security."

Eliahu Epstein, special Israeli representative to the United States, addressing the convention, asserted that Israel had no intention "of losing control over the Negev, which is part of our sovereign territory." He emphasized that the Negev "will be defended by us just as we have been defending Tel Aviv, Haifa, and the Jordan Valley." Calling attention to the passage of the partition plan by the United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 29 last year, he said that in the last twelve months "we have found that was all the United Nations gave us." The Israeli representative denounced the "hostile and selfish forces within the United Nations, led by Great Britain" adding that "none of the machinations of our enemies in Paris will prevail."

Israeli, Jewish Agency Leaders Address Parley

Isaac Ben Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council of Israel, declared that the state of Israel is more interested in ploughshares and farm tractors than in guns and ammunition. "But we must defend ourselves against those infamous forces--under British leadership--which seek to destroy us." Ben Zvi also insisted that "peace is our immediate objective. But we want a just peace. We want to sit down with the Arabs at a conference table and work things out."

In a review of the current situation in Israel, Berl Locker, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive in Jerusalem and another speaker at the parley, declared that "it cannot be denied, it is obvious to every observer, that our position now is stronger than it ever was." He added that "we need Jewish Zionists and Jewish unity now more than ever before." Locker asserted that the state of Israel belongs not only to its present inhabitants but to all those who are to come there to rebuild their lives, thus helping in the upbuilding of the life of the nation.

Eliahu Dobkin, head of the Jewish Agency immigration department, who just arrived from Israel and Paris, announced that 80,000 immigrants have been absorbed into the Israeli economy in the six-and-a-half months of the existence of the Jewish state. He asserted that in 1949 Israel will admit 200,000 more Jewish immigrants erasing the "shame of the DP camps in the midst of the so-called European civilization." Dobkin called the Israeli immigration and colonization program the Jewish state's "second front."

Edward Corsi, New York State Industrial Commissioner, who recently visited Israel, called on the U.S. to grant "tonight" the same degree of recognition to Israel as had the Soviet Union. A message of congratulation was received by the convention from President Chaim Weizmann of Israel. Joseph Schlossberg, national chairman, and all other officers of the organization, were reelected.

AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS HAIL FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF PALESTINE PARTITION DECISION

NEW YORK, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- The Jewish people must "remain mobilized and alerted" in support of the state of Israel, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, declared here today in a statement marking the first anniversary of the U.N. Palestine partition resolution of last November 29.

Pointing out that the past year saw three "unprecedented events"--recognition by the U.N. of the right of the Jews to establish their own state, proclamation of Israel, and the "remarkable and successful" defense of the state by the Jewish people--Dr. Silver added that "what has been established has been firmly established and what has been achieved is irrevocable." In the statement, issued in behalf of the Council, Dr. Silver expressed the hope that the coming year would see the admission of Israel to the U.N. and the establishment of peace and prosperity in the Holy Land.

Announcing that 30,000 new members were enrolled in the Zionist Organization of America during November, designated by the organization as "Zion Month" in commemoration of the U.N. decision, Z.O.A. president Emanuel Neumann declared that the immediate problem facing the Jews of the world is the resettling in Israel within the shortest possible time "hundreds of thousands and possibly millions of Jews of various lands who are on the move or waiting for the opportunity to rebuild their lives under the protecting wings of the Jewish state."

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, issued a proclamation calling upon the American people to join in an "Action for Israel" program during the week-end to celebrate the first anniversary of the United Nations decision establishing a Jewish state in Palestine. Pointing out that "America helped, by actions culminating in the Nov. 29th decision, to bring Israel into being," the proclamation urged support of the following program: Support of the Israeli claim to territory now under Israeli control; support in the U.N. proposals for direct peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab states; urge President Truman to curb "the conspirators in the State Department who have been deliberately countermmanding his orders and the mandate of the American people"; and an immediate U.S. loan to the state of Israel.

10,000 Argentine Jews Celebrate First Anniversary of Partition Decision

BUENOS AIRES, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- Ten thousand persons today celebrated the first anniversary of the November 29 Palestine partition resolution of the United Nations at a mass meeting in Luna Park, the city's largest outdoor stadium. The meeting also marked the successful conclusion of the first Argentine United Jewish Appeal drive.

Gedalia Zuchowitzki, representative of the Israeli office of the Keren Hayesod, one of the chief speakers at the rally, asked Argentinian Jews to continue their contributions to Israel even after the current war ends. Zuchowitzki was presented with an Argentinian flag to be given to Israeli President Weizmann as a symbol of Argentine's loyalty to Argentina and love for Israel.

ISRAELI VICE-CONSUL TO LEAVE FOR CHINA TO AID EMIGRATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES

NEW YORK, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- Moshe Yuval, Israel vice-consul in New York, was scheduled to leave today for China to facilitate the emigration of Jews from China to Israel. Yuval expects to arrive in Shanghai Tuesday to serve as representative of the Israeli Ministry of Immigration.

CANADIAN LABOR GROUP ASKS GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL, ESTABLISH TRADE RELATIONS

OTTAWA, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- A resolution to the Canadian Government asking for recognition of the state of Israel and the immediate establishment of diplomatic and trade relations with the Jewish state has been submitted by the Canadian Congress of Labor; it was reported here over the week-end.

\$250,000 MEMORIAL FUND ESTABLISHED AT BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY BY MEYER JAFFE AND FRIENDS

WALTHAM, Mass., Nov. 28. (JTA) -- The establishment of a \$250,000 fund by Meyer Jaffe, of Fall River, Mass., and a group of his friends to be known as the William Walter Jaffe Memorial Library Building Fund for the construction of a university library was announced over the week-end by the Brandeis University here.

The building will be named in honor of Mr. Jaffe's son who was killed in an automobile accident in 1945. The library will be the first unit in a new expansion program of the University.

JUNIOR HADASSAH 25TH CONVENTION ADOPTS \$200,000 BUDGET; ASKS U.S. RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- A resolution calling upon President Truman to instruct the American delegation at the U.N. to sponsor direct peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab states was adopted here this week-end at the closing session of the 25th annual convention of the Junior Hadassah. The group also pledged itself to raise \$201,300 for its immigration and youth aid program in Israel.

The resolution calls on the United States to support Israel's request for membership in the U.N. and "to continue to oppose any suggestion or attempt to diminish the boundaries of the state of Israel without the full consent of the Israeli Government." It also asks President Truman to give immediate de jure recognition to the state of Israel and "to extend it adequate and appropriate economic assistance." Zelda Funk of Brooklyn, New York, was reelected president.

ISRAELI CONSULATE IN NEW YORK ACQUIRES VANDERBILT HOUSE FOR NEW HEADQUARTERS

NEW YORK, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government's consular offices here will occupy this week new headquarters in a former Vanderbilt town house in a choice residential section of Manhattan's upper East Side, it was announced over the week-end. The Israeli Government signed a ten-year lease on the building.

DEFICIT OF \$2,000,000 DISCLOSED BY FEDERATION OF JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- The combined budget of the institutions affiliated with the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York has a deficit of \$2,100,000, Benjamin Lazarus, chairman of the federation's fund drive, disclosed here over the week-end. Lazarus attributed last year's deficit to increased costs for commodities, salaries and services. He warned that if the federation's current campaign, with a goal of \$16,500,000, is not successful "the resultant curtailment in federation-affiliated institutions will be even more serious and dangerous."

SAMUEL GOLDWYN AWARDED "HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR" CITATION AT PRESENTATION DINNER

NEW YORK, Nov. 28. (JTA) -- The 1948 "Humanitarian of the Year" award of the United Jewish Appeal has been presented to Samuel Goldwyn, noted motion picture producer, it was announced here by the organization over the week-end. Goldwyn headed the \$10,000,000 campaign of the United Jewish Welfare Fund of Los Angeles.