

Sunday, December 12, 1948

JTA *Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

CHURCHILL DEMANDS RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL; BRITISH GOVT. SAYS IT IS NOT PREPARED TO MOVE

LONDON, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- The British Government, in the person of Foreign Under Secretary Christopher Mayhew, today served notice that it is not prepared to recognize Israel, while wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill demanded that Britain recognize the Jewish state. Both statements were made in the course of the second day of a foreign policy debate in the House of Commons.

Describing the establishment of Israel as an "event in world history," Churchill insisted that the Israeli Government cannot be ignored. Calling for an end to the Labor Government's "sulky boycott" of the Jewish state, the Conservative leader asked that British representatives be sent to Tel Aviv immediately.

"A settlement of the Palestine question would certainly have been attempted in the closest possible association with the United States and in personal contact with the President by any government of which I happened to have been the head," Churchill stated. Summing up the achievements of the Jews in establishing their state, he said: "The Jews have driven out the Arabs from a larger area than contemplated under the partition decision; they have established a government which functions efficiently; they have a victorious army at their disposal; and, they have the support of both the Soviets and the United States."

Federation of Israel and Arab States Envisaged by Churchill

He also claimed that once the war ends, it will be easy to establish an Arab federation consisting of several Arab states and one Jewish nation. Addressing himself to Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, Churchill reminded him that he had staked his reputation on solving the Palestine problem. Referring to the Transjordan issue raised by the British delegate at the United Nations, Churchill warned against aiding Transjordan in its present conflict.

"If Transjordan is attacked and we are brought in," he pointed out, "it might bring us into dispute with the United States. After all the good work we have done in Palestine it would be tragic if the only result we carried away was a deep divergence between ourselves and the United States."

Mayhew, in his statement, insisted that Britain has no intention of permanently ostracizing the Jewish state. Asserting that the British Government looks forward to friendly relations with Israel, he revealed that the British Consul General at Haifa is now returning to Palestine for consultations. "The question of establishing better contacts with the Jewish authorities, without prejudice to the question of recognition, is being closely studied by the government."

"We cannot decide on the question of recognition before we consider the result of the deliberations of the current Assembly and have taken into account the observance or non-observance of the Security Council truce," he declared. Mayhew then added that before recognition is granted the British must have assurance as to the frontiers of Israel, assurances about truce observance, and assurances about "any further claims of the Jewish authorities against the neighboring states."

EGYPTIAN TROOPS LAUNCH HEAVY ATTACK AGAINST JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN NEGEV

TEL AVIV, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Egyptian units, supported by about 15 tanks, today launched a heavy attack against the Jewish settlement of Nirim, south of Gaza, in the Negev, an official Israeli communique said. The attack, which began before noon, was repulsed by nightfall. The government also revealed that in a recent clash in the Negev, the Egyptians lost a battalion, with the number of dead alone above 100.

Commenting on a suggestion made by chief U.N. observer Gen. William Riley that the Israelis permit another supply convoy to proceed to the Faluja area, where a large force of Egyptian troops are encircled, an Israeli Government spokesman said today the Faluja question depends on the outcome of armistice negotiations. "The mere acceptance of negotiations is not sufficient," he added. "We want something more tangible, like the exact date of a meeting."

The spokesman also said that the Israelis could not understand why a minor liaison meeting between the Jews and Iraqis last Sunday was "blown up" by Gen. Riley. He said that Israel is prepared to negotiate an armistice with the Iraqis--or with any other Arab army or state--provided the Iraqi Government formally appoints representatives to such talks.

Commenting on press reports that moves have been made by Britain, France and the United States to reopen the oil pipelines from Iraq to Haifa, although not for oil to be refined in Israel but for refining abroad, the spokesman said that the Israeli Government would consider the matter when it is approached with regard to Haifa. He stated that reopening of the oil lines would be more in the interests of Iraq, since the Bagdad Government is at present losing royalties.

(In Washington, a State Department spokesman declined to comment on the report, saying that the Department preferred to withhold comment lest current negotiations with Iraq become complicated.)

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT INFORMS U.N. IT WILL NEGOTIATE RELEASE OF EGYPTIANS IN FALUJA TRAP

LAKE SUCCESS, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government has agreed to begin negotiations for the release of Egyptian forces encircled in the Faluja area, in the Negev, acting mediator Dr. Ralph Bunche today announced. His announcement was contained in a communication released by U.N. headquarters here today, to the seven-member sub-committee of the Security Council established to assist him in implementing the Council's Negev withdrawal order.

Dr. Bunche's communication quoted a note from Walter Eytan, representative of the Israeli Foreign Office, agreeing to such negotiations. Eytan, pointing out that his government had been reluctant to agree to the release of the Faluja troops until the Egyptian Government accepted the Council's order to convert the Palestine truce into an armistice, stated:

"The Government of Israel, presuming that you are satisfied that the Egyptian Government is now sincerely bent upon seeking an armistice and upon bringing to a speedy end the present war, is prepared to agree to your proposal that its representative be authorized to undertake immediate discussions with the U.N. Chief of Staff concerning the withdrawal of Egyptian forces from Faluja in stages to be determined in the course of negotiation, and parallel discussion with a view to the demarcation of permanent armistice lines."

Dr. Bunche also informed the Council sub-committee that he was satisfied with the Israeli answer. He said: "This reply appears to me to be satisfactory and I am, therefore, instructing the Chief of Staff of the truce supervision organization to undertake immediately to give full effect to the arrangements envisaged in the proposal, and to bring the Egyptian and Israeli commanders together at the earliest

PALESTINE CONCILIATION WILL COST UNITED NATIONS OVER \$4,000,000 IN NEXT TEN MONTHS

PARIS, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- The proposed conciliation in Palestine will cost the United Nations \$4,092,000 for the next ten months--\$6. for each adult Israeli and Arab to be conciliated in Palestine.

At the start, the projected U.N. conciliation commission would have 500 military observers, 107 internationally recruited officials and 72 technical personnel. Altogether, the proposed three grand conciliators will have a staff of 679.

The whole ten months of conciliation will cost less than three days that war in Palestine has cost the combatants. It will cost less than one week's additional expenditure by Israel for defense against Egypt alone.

CHIEF OF ISRAELI POLICE FORCE WILL STUDY POLICE METHODS IN UNITED STATES

TEL AVIV, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Yohezkel Sahar, Inspector General of the Israeli police, will come to the United States soon to study new police investigation and organization methods, it was reported here today.

Minister of Trade Dr. Fritz Bernstein, addressing a meeting of the General Zionist executive, announced that a new law on industrial development in Israel will soon be promulgated.

The Maccabi World Congress--sponsored by President Weizmann, Premier Ben Gurion, Tel Aviv Mayor Rokach and other dignitaries--will open in Habimah Hall in Tel Aviv on the eve of Chanukah, it was announced today. Maccabi delegations from all sections of the world, including the displaced persons camps in Germany, will attend the parley.

HISTADRUTH CONFERENCE RATIFIES DISSOLUTION OF PALMACH HEADQUARTERS BY VOTE OF 69-38

TEL AVIV, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- The Histadruth Council conference ratified by a vote of 69 to 38 the dissolution of the separate headquarters of Palmach, the striking force of the former Haganah. The 69 votes were cast by members of Mapai, the right-wing labor group within Histadruth, and the minority ballot was cast by members of Mapam, the left-wing segment of the Israeli Labor Federation. The General Zionists within the Histadruth--Hacoved Hazoni--abstained from voting.

ISRAEL'S SIGNIFICANCE FOR MANKIND EMPHASIZED AT NOBEL GATHERING IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- The birth of Israel, following upon the physical destruction of one-third of the Jewish people, the disappearance of entire Jewish communities, and the dispersal of hundreds of thousands of survivors, "has a significance for mankind and its history" and is part of the world's fight for the rebirth of the "principles of human justice everywhere," Eliahu Epstein, Israeli representative to the United States, declared here today.

He spoke at the Eighth Annual Nobel Anniversary Commemoration which took place at Hotel Pierre. Paying tribute to the memory of the late United Nations Palestine mediator Count Folke Bernadotte, Epstein asserted that the "government of Israel is determined to stamp out terrorism."

U.S. EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMENT FAVORABLY ON PROPOSED ISRAELI CONSTITUTION

NEW YORK, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Outstanding American authorities on international and constitutional law have commented favorably on the draft of the Israeli constitution, the full text of which was made public today in the American press, it was revealed this afternoon by Eliahu Epstein, Israeli envoy in Washington, in a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

The draft, prepared by Dr. Leo Kohn, counsellor of the Israeli Foreign Office, attracted wide interest in this country. It combines aspects of the American, French and British systems of government with some of the fundamentals of ancient Jewish law. It abolishes the death penalty, separates state and church, guarantees free access to Palestine's Holy Places, establishes freedom of worship for all sects, draws no distinction among Jews, Christians and Moslems in their rights as citizens, and goes beyond any existing constitution--including that of the United States--in setting forth basic human rights.

The draft provides that no one should be subjected to torture, flogging or humiliating punishment and prohibits the application of moral pressure or physical violence in the course of police interrogation. Freedom of speech and opinion is guaranteed. Censorship is unlawful, except in time of war or national emergency. No person may be extradited to any country where he is liable to be deprived of such rights as are guaranteed by the Israeli Constitution. Hebrew is the official language of Israel, but adequate facilities shall be given to Arab-speaking citizens for use of their language in the legislature, before courts and before administrative authorities.

Sabbath and the Jewish holidays are the official days of rest, but holy days of other religious denominations are recognized equally as days of rest for the members of such denominations. Every citizen has a right to social security and to health services by the state, which will also provide facilities for primary and secondary education for Israelis and Arabs in their own languages.

The President, according to the constitution, is to be elected for a period of five years by the Israeli Parliament, which is to have not less than 100 members. The Cabinet is to have not more than 15 members and is to be responsible to the Parliament. The Premier and his Cabinet must resign when they fail to get the support of a majority of the Parliament. Members of the Parliament are elected for four years.

Israeli Precepts of Justice Are the Same as American, Epstein Says

"Whatever draft is finally adopted by our Constituent Assembly the Constitution of the Israeli state will undoubtedly be based on principles of democracy, of fullest freedom for the individual and of equality before law, with democratically-elected governing bodies and no discrimination between citizens," Epstein said in his statement. "These principles will in fact give expression to the tradition of Jewish law and reflect the way of life and of the progressive democratic Jewish society in Israel. Our precepts of moral and political justice are the same as those which gave liberty and independence to America and other freedom-loving nations of the world."

"To call Dr. Kohn's draft of the constitution 'socialistic' as has been erroneously suggested in one New York journal is both inaccurate and misleading. This draft includes all guarantees of a society based on full respect for individual property and free enterprise," the Israeli envoy pointed out.

HUNGARIAN JEWISH LEADERS MEET TO DISCUSS NEW AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH GOVERNMENT

BUDAPEST, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Members of the praesidium and other leading officials of the Jewish community met here last night in the Budapest Community House to discuss the newly-signed agreement between the Hungarian Government and the Orthodox and Reform Jewish communities. Samuel Kahan-Frankel, president of the Orthodox community, and one of the signatories of the pact, reported on the details of the agreement.

Lajos Stoekler, representative of the Reform community and another signatory who announced the new concordat between the government and the Jews, also reported on the work of the Hungarian delegates who attended the recent J.D.C. conference in Paris. Stoekler said that as a result of the Paris parley, the J.D.C. will continue its three-year program of reconstruction in Hungary.

TURKEY MAY NOT PERMIT RETURN OF JEWS WHO LEFT COUNTRY FOR ISRAEL, MINISTER INDICATES

ISTANBUL, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Minister of Interior Munir Nusrev Cole indicated today at a meeting of the Republican Party that Turkish Jews emigrating from the country to points outside Israel and who later make their way to the Jewish state may not be permitted to return to Turkey.

"In emigrating to Palestine," the Turkish Minister declared, "Turkish Jews are committing an illegal act and they have no right to return to this country." He expressed this opinion in reply to a question regarding the present emigration of Turkish Jews. He added that all Turkish consulates in European countries have been specifically instructed to warn Turkish Jews who recently arrived in Europe against proceeding to Palestine.

ORGAN OF JEWISH DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE SPURS VIOLENT ANTI-ZIONIST CAMPAIGN IN ROMANIA

BUCHAREST, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Attacks carried out last week-end by members of the Jewish Democratic Committee against the offices of Zionist organizations have been followed by a violent anti-Zionist campaign, spurred by Unirea, organ of the Jewish Democratic Committee. The attacks were halted unofficially by government authorities.

In a front-page editorial, Unirea today denounced Zionism as "bourgeois nationalism, which is diverting the Jewish workers from the fight against the exploiters." The article says that "every honest person should fight Zionism, which is the weapon of imperialism." The paper also reported that meetings have been held throughout the country denouncing "Jewish nationalism."

ISRAELI ENVOY TO POLAND DISCUSSED EMIGRATION OF JEWS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

WARSAW, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Polish Foreign Minister Zigmunt Modzelewski conferred with Israeli Minister to Poland Israel Barzilai on the question of the emigration of Polish Jews to the Jewish state prior to the latter's departure for Paris to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok, it was learned here today.

Meanwhile, Polish Government officials and Israeli representatives will soon conclude a trade agreement between their respective countries. Details of the pact are expected to be announced shortly.

YIDDISH AND HEBREW SCHOOLS NO LONGER EXIST IN RUMANIA, REPORTS FROM BUCHAREST REVEAL

NEW YORK, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- Two private letters from Bucharest published in the Jewish Daily Forward reveal that all Yiddish and Hebrew schools in Rumania have been liquidated under a new law on education promulgated by the government. One letter emphasizes that more than 15,000 pupils attended these schools. The names of the authors of the letters are withheld, but they are known to be persons active in Jewish cultural life.

The author of one of the letters, dated, "Bucharest, Oct. 29, 1948," emphasizes that the Jews were promised that Yiddish and Hebrew would be taught in such schools in Rumania where enrollment of Jewish pupils is 20 percent or more. However, this promise has not been kept so far, he declares. He maintains that today "there is not a single school where either Yiddish or Hebrew or Jewish history is taught."

U.S. GROUPS LAUD U.N. APPROVAL OF GENOCIDE PACT; WILL SEEK TO SECURE ITS RATIFICATION

NEW YORK, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- The adoption yesterday by the U.N. General Assembly of the international convention outlawing the crime of genocide was lauded here today in a statement issued by the U.S. Committee for a U.N. Genocide Convention.

James N. Rosenberg, chairman of the Committee, revealed that his group stimulated organizations from over 30 nations representing hundreds of millions of members to file petitions with the U.S. Committee which were all submitted to the General Assembly towards the adoption of the convention. "This," he emphasized, "is only our first step." The Committee, he said, now intends to mobilize public opinion to secure the necessary minimum of ratification of the pact by 20 governments.

"The adoption of the genocide convention may make Dec. 9 as historic a day as the day of the adoption of the American Bill of Rights," the statement said. "History should record that this means the first step toward an International Bill of Rights, a world Magna Charta protecting man and woman and children the world over." The statement paid tribute to Dr. Raphael Lemkin, author of the idea of the Convention, and emphasized that "the moral leadership that has come from the United States in this achievement is the fruit of teamwork of many organizations and individuals."

The international convention outlawing genocide was termed "a great step forward in establishing a world system of legally guaranteed human rights" in a statement issued today by Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee. The A.J.C. is the U.S. member of the Consultative Council, which, as an accredited consultant organization to the U.N. Economic and Social Council, has worked with U.N. delegates and staff for the passage of the genocide convention and other human rights guarantees.

BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT PROMISES TO CHECK ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA IN COUNTRY

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Dec. 10. (JTA) -- President Dr. Enrique Hertzog of Bolivia today gave assurances that measures will be taken to check a campaign of anti-Jewish propaganda in Bolivia which is being conducted through leaflets and in the press. The assurance was given to Dr. Henry Shoskes, representative of HIAS, who was received by the President and drew his attention to an article in the newspaper "Republica" threatening Jews with pogroms.

(Action on the part of the Bolivian Government to check renewed anti-Jewish propaganda in the country was requested today by the World Jewish Congress in New York in a letter to the Bolivian Ambassador in Washington.)