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## FIGHTING BETWEEN ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN ARMIES RESUMED; BLACKOUT REIMPOSED IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Fighting has been resumed between the Israeli and Egyptian armies in the Negev, an official communique announced today. As a result, a black-out will be reimposed all over Israel beginning tonight.

The communique said that land and air clashes took place during the night and all day today in an area northwest of the Jewish settlement of Nirim. Armored forces were used and the Egyptians dropped several bombs not far from Nirim, but did not cause serious damage.

An Israeli military spokesman denied an Egyptian report that a Jewish plane was shot down in the battle. "Steps have been taken to prevent renewed Egyptian sabotage of the water pipelines in the southern Negev," the spokesman said.

(Reuters reported that a War Ministry spokesman in Egypt said that Israeli planes have raided Egyptian positions in Palestine. "Anti-aircraft batteries opened fire and the Faluja garrison shot down one plane," the report stated. Faluja is an Egyptian pocket in the Jewish-held Negev area.)

An official Israeli announcement issued at the end of the day said that fighting continued on a smaller scale during the afternoon with both sides dropping bombs from planes. United Nations observers have been advised of the resumption of hostilities around Nirim.

## Israel Reserves "Freedom of Action" Regarding Egypt; Notifies U.N.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Government has notified Gen. William Riley, U.N. chief of staff in Palestine, that in view of the fact that Egypt has not indicated any desire to start armistice talks, Israel reserves for itself freedom of action. The Israeli communication was sent to Gen. Riley following a meeting of the Israeli Cabinet, which lasted late into the night. The text of the communication reads:

"For the past two weeks the Israeli Government has been watching with great concern the steady deterioration of prospects for peace with Egypt. Following a visit to the Middle East early in December by U.N. mediator Ralph J. Bunche who felt that there was a good chance to secure agreement on the part of the Egyptian Government for the initiation of armistice talks in accordance with the resolution adopted by the U.N. Security Council, the Government of Israel was prepared, as a token of good will, to order that a start be made in the evacuation of the Egyptian forces stationed at Faluja.

"Communication to this effect was made to Bunche on Dec. 9. Now the Israeli Government understands that the Government of Egypt changed its mind and is not willing to take any practical steps in the direction of peace. Egypt appears to be

pinning itself to a single clause in the Security Council resolution in order to undo the main purpose which the Council had in mind, namely the conclusion of an armistice as a first step towards peace.

"As the Egyptian Government has done nothing to indicate its desire to achieve a peaceful settlement, the Government of Israel feels bound to reserve its freedom of action with a view to defending its territory and hastening the conclusion of the war."

#### Ben Gurion Issues Christmas Message to Christians in Israel

Premier David Ben Gurion today sent a Christmas message to the Christian population in Israel declaring: "The past year has been one of battle and hardship forced upon us by those who spurned international obligations and chose the sword as arbiter of the country's future. However, their evil design was frustrated."

The message of the Israeli Premier concluded by emphasizing that the Israeli Government prays fervently that peace for all citizens will soon be realized "so that men and women of all creeds in Israel should soon be able to dedicate themselves in wholehearted unity to the constructive tasks of peace."

#### ISRAELI AUTHORITIES DETAIN BRITISH JEW ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE COUNTRY; SERVED AS ARMY ALIE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Dr. Mark Henry Jacobus, a British Jew who came to this country in August to lecture at the Hebrew University, has been prevented by the government from leaving the country, he charged last night at a conference with a group of British journalists.

Israeli authorities, meanwhile, said that "we had good grounds for detaining Jacobus." They also promised that a full statement would be issued shortly.

Dr. Jacobus, a psychologist, served with the Israeli Army in the capacity of an advisor to its officer selection board when the University closed down as a result of the battle in Jerusalem. He told the newsmen that on December 9 he boarded a ship at Haifa for the journey to Marseilles. Before the vessel sailed, however, a group of security officers in civilian clothes arrested him on "security" grounds.

His passport was taken from him and he was kept in prison for five days until he was recognized by a visiting psychiatrist who arranged for his release. His passport was not returned to him and when he called on the Army commander in Haifa to ask for his documents, Jacobus said, he was turned out of the office. He came to Tel Aviv to protest to higher authorities.

#### EXISTENCE OF SECRET TUNNEL IN ACRE FORTRESS REVEALED AT TRIAL OF STERNIST CHIEFS

HAIFA, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The existence of a secret tunnel under the Acre fortress, which permitted the escape of prisoners and which was never discovered by the British, was revealed here today at the Acre military trial of Nathan Friedman-Yellin, Stern Group leader, and his aide, Matatiah Shmulevitz.

The chief defendant, referring to yesterday's closed session of the trial at which secret documents allegedly referring to espionage by Sternists were read by the prosecution, said today that it was a "shame to call an organization whose soldiers fought at Lydda, Ramleh, the Negev and Galilee an 'organization of spies.'"

Declaring that "I think this is a second Leipzig trial," and that "you are using Bernadotte's death to destroy our movement," Friedman-Yellin told the prosecution: "You need a Reichstag fire." Cross-examination of the defendants is expected to begin tomorrow.

ZIONISMS IN HUMANIA SUSPEND ACTIVITIES; DECISION TAKEN AFTER THREE-DAY DELIBERATIONS

**BUCHAREST, Dec. 23. (JTA) --** A decision to suspend Zionist activities in Rumania was adopted here today by the central board of the Zionist Organization following three days of deliberations. The decision is a result of the recently increased anti-Zionist propaganda in the country, conducted by pro-Government groups.

The central Zionist body appointed a special committee to notify the various Zionist groups and youth organizations throughout the country of the decision. Each of the groups will have to decide for itself as to whether it wishes to adhere to the Board's decision or prefers to continue its activities as an independent organization.

MILITARY AUTHORITIES ESTABLISH CZECH PLANE CARRYING JEWS TO ISRAEL CRASHED IN GREECE

**ATHENS, Dec. 23. (JTA) --** Military authorities here today established that a missing Czech plane carrying Jewish passengers from Prague to Israel crashed near Kalamata in the Peloponnese. There is little hope that any of the passengers survived, they said.

Among the passengers were Erwin Diamant and Michael Kanner, members of the Maccabi presidium in Czechoslovakia, and Dr. Hans Rezek, deputy chief rabbi of Prague. Also on the plane were Samuel Rabinovits and Julius Kuperman of Brazil and their wives.

The military commander of the Peloponnese area issued an order to Greek military units to search the region. The troops reported that the spot where the plane crashed is inaccessible.

ISRAELI-POLISH TRADE TALKS TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF TRANSFER OF JEWISH PROPERTY

**TEL AVIV, Dec. 23. (JTA) --** The question of transferring to Israel property in Poland which belonged to Jews murdered by the Nazis during the war will be one of the major points discussed at the forthcoming trade talks between Poland and Israel, it was learned here today. The Jews will attempt to achieve a settlement along the same lines as was arranged for the transfer of Jewish property from Germany shortly after the Nazis came to power and began the persecution of Jews.

The proposal which will be made by the Jews will provide for the sale in Poland of whatever property is involved and crediting the Israeli trade account in Poland in Polish currency. The account in Poland will be used to buy goods for shipment to Israel where the proceeds from their sale will be used to repay in Israeli currency the owners or claimants of the original property. Since a great deal of property is involved, it is considered likely that such a transfer program may take years to complete.

Some 8,000 pieces of property are being claimed by the Jewish National Fund in behalf of heirs and other claimants who have made an arrangement with the agency, inasmuch as they cannot finance the necessary legal action in their own behalf.

JEW ELECTED MEMBER OF ARGENTINE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ON RADICAL PARTY TICKET

**BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 23. (JTA) --** Moises Lebenschn, a leader of the Argentine Radical Party, has been elected a member of the Constituent Assembly. It will be the first time since the Argentine Parliament was dissolved, following the revolution of June 4, 1943, that a Jew has become a member of the country's highest legislative body.

ADEN JEWS COMMEMORATE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF POGROMS; APPEAL FOR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE

ADEN, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The Jewish community here is observing today as a day of prayer and commemoration for the 75 Jews who were massacred in the pogroms which broke out a year ago in this British Protectorate.

S.M. Benin, chairman of the Jewish Community Council, who has just returned from a visit to London, told a meeting of the Council of the steps which the World Jewish Congress and other organizations are taking to obtain compensation for the destroyed and looted property which the Jews suffered during the pogroms. He described the proposals for compensation made by the Aden administration as totally inadequate.

The Council adopted a resolution appealing to Jewish organizations to continue their efforts in behalf of the community here. The resolution pointed out that the local synagogue and school--which were destroyed during the rioting last year--have not yet been rebuilt. The appeal emphasized that many of the Jews here are destitute.

ISRAEL WILL NOT CONFISCATE ARAB LANDS, J.N.F. PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- "The Government of Israel will not confiscate any of the lands abandoned by the Arabs who fled from Palestine during the Israeli-Arab war," Judge Morris Rothenberg, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, declared last night at a testimonial dinner for Solomon Z. Kerstein, tendered by the United Galician Jews of America.

"All land areas required for the resettlement of Jewish refugees from Europe will be equitably acquired by the Jewish National Fund," Judge Rothenberg emphasized. The dinner was given on the occasion of the launching of a land-redemption project in Israel which will be known as "Nachlath Galician Jews."

YIDDISH WRITERS UNION NAMES DR. WEIZMANN HONORARY MEMBER; TO SEND HIM TESTIMONIAL

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- President of Israel Dr. Chaim Weizmann was named today an honorary member of the Peretz Verein, the Yiddish Writers Union. The group decided to send him an illuminated parchment testimonial and an official membership card.

Five thousand painters--of whom 40 percent are non-Jewish--have raised \$28,500 for Histadrut, it was reported last night at a dinner here of the National Committee for Labor Israel at which a check for the full sum was turned over to the Committee. The sum was raised by a contribution of 30,000 hours of labor.

SPECIAL FLIGHT TO ISRAEL INAUGURATED BY DENVER JEWS; TRIP TO BE TAKEN IN FEBRUARY

DENVER, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The inauguration of a special "Denver Flight to the Jewish State" next February--in which a limited number of Jews from this community will fly to Israel in an Air France luxury sleeper constellation--was announced here.

Endorsed by Governor William Knous of Colorado, and many local Jewish communal leaders, the flight will originate in this city, continue on to New York--where a reception will be arranged for the passengers--proceed to Paris for a three-day stop-over and then go on to Haifa. The flight participants will spend 16 days in Israel where they will be taken on conducted tours of all parts of the country.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL SENDS SEASON'S GREETINGS TO HEADS OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Noting the observance of the Christian holy season, Dr. Robert Gordis, president of the Synagogue Council of America -- which represents Orthodox, Reform and Conservative Jewish congregations in the U.S. -- today sent a message of greetings to leaders of the Protestant and Catholic churches in this country.

"At this sacred season, marked both in Christianity and in Judaism by deeply-loved festivals, the Synagogue Council of America, representing the religious household of American Judaism, wishes to convey to you and to all our brethren of the Christian community, our cordial greetings and reaffirm the sense of solidarity and brotherhood binding all God's children together," the message said. "Those ideals, resting securely upon our common faith in the unity of God and the brotherhood of man, present a challenge to Christianity and to Judaism to translate these aspirations into reality and create one world before there is danger that none will survive."

STUDY OF HEBREW IN ALL HIGH SCHOOLS URGED IN RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO N.Y. CITY COUNCIL

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Councilwoman Bertha Schwartz today introduced in the New York City Council a resolution recommending the extension of the study of Hebrew into all junior and senior high schools of this city.

The resolution emphasized the increasing interest in modern Hebrew during the past 19 years. More than 500 colleges and universities have recognized Hebrew as a language for entrance requirements, while 19 New York high schools, five junior high schools, and two evening high schools have included this subject in their curricula, the resolution said. Since June, the State Board of Regents has given modern Hebrew the same recognition on a state-wide basis which it gives to all other languages.

LUBAVITCHER CHASSIDIM MARK 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF THEIR FOUNDER IN RUSSIA

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The 150th anniversary of the liberation of Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liady, founder of the Chabad Chassidic movement, from the St. Petersburg fortress where he was held by the Czarist regime in Russia, was observed yesterday by followers of Chabad in the United States and throughout the world, according to reports received here today by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Joseph Isaac Schneersohn, world leader of the movement.

In connection with this anniversary, the Lubavitcher Rebbe issued a message to the Jews of the world, and particularly to his followers, calling for the strengthening of Torah study, "devotion to prayer, and the cultivation of character." He also released a benediction for material and spiritual welfare.

AGUDATH ISRAEL YOUTH COUNCIL SENDS 128,000 POUNDS OF KOSHER FOODSTUFFS TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- A 128,000-pound shipment of kosher foodstuffs was dispatched today to Israel by the Agudath Israel Youth Council of America. The shipment will be brought to the Jewish state by the S.S. Santo Despo.

ALBERT K. EPSTEIN BURIED IN TEL AVIV; WEIZMANN, OTHER DIGNITARIES ATTEND SERVICES

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Albert K. Epstein, president of AMPAL, who died here yesterday of a heart attack, was buried today in the Old Cemetery here. President Weizmann, Communications Minister David Remez, chairman of the State Council Joseph Sprinzak and numerous other dignitaries attended the funeral services. Dr. Israel Goldstein, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, delivered the eulogy.

BECAUSE OF NON-DELIVERY OF MAIL TOMORROW, THE NEXT ISSUE WILL APPEAR ON MONDAY.