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### BEVIN REPORTS TO BRITISH CABINET ON PALESTINE; SAYS JEWS OCCUPIED TWO EGYPTIAN BASES

LONDON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin today told a Cabinet meeting that Israeli forces have occupied two major Egyptian air bases on the Sinai Peninsula.

The airfields are understood to be at Rafah, on the Israeli-Egyptian border, and at El Arish, about 30 miles inside Egypt on the road to the Suez Canal, which is about 100 miles away. El Arish was the main operating base and headquarters of the Egyptian air force operating in Palestine. It figured in recent talks concerning a new Anglo-Egyptian treaty when the British asked for it as a base for their troops.

It is understood that Bevin's information will be communicated at once to the State Department and will be laid before the U.N. Security Council when it resumes its sessions at Lake Success. Among the steps Bevin is believed to have proposed today is that the British Government should take unilateral action to aid Egypt if the U.S. and the Security Council fail to restrain Israel. Meanwhile, certain dispositions are reported to have been taken in the Suez zone.

Foreign Office sources are unwilling to disclose whether the British Government has received a copy of the alleged warning by President Truman to Israel not to invade Egypt. However, sources close to the American Embassy here expressed the opinion that no such note has been sent and that if representations were made to Israel they were made orally in Tel Aviv.

The Evening News has published a scathing attack on Bevin's "obstinacy" over Palestine, warning that if Britain continues her present hostile role, the Jewish state may seek "other friends." The recent handling of the Israel situation, which has led to rumors of possible war between Britain and Israel, has cost Britain her prestige in the Middle East, the newspaper said. It added that Bevin's "unrealistic" thinking concerning Israel may have been possible in May, 1948, but not in January, 1949.

### White House Denies Reports Truman Changed His Policy on Israeli Recognition

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- White House press secretary Charles G. Ross denied today that President Truman had changed his policy toward recognition of Israel.

Reports from London yesterday quoting "a responsible source" maintained that the United States had warned Israel that she faced the loss of American diplomatic recognition if Jewish troops should invade neighboring Arab states. Ross said flatly "no" this morning when asked if the President had changed his policy toward recognition of the Jewish state.

President Truman said in a speech in New York shortly before his election that he would extend de jure recognition to Israel "as soon as a permanent government is established."

U.N. HAS NO REPORT ON ALLEGED ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF TWO EGYPTIAN AIRPORTS

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Dr. Ralph Bunche, acting U.N. mediator on Palestine, today stated that he had received no reports indicating that Israeli troops had occupied two Egyptian airports as reported by British Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin to his Cabinet.

A session of the Security Council to deal with the Palestine question, scheduled for Jan. 6, will not take place on that date, it was stated here today. No indication was given as to when the meeting will take place.

Bunche today announced that he has summoned Brig. Gen. William Riley, U.N. Chief of Staff in Palestine, to come to Lake Success to discuss questions concerning truce supervision in Palestine. He will also discuss with Gen. Riley the question of turning over part of the truce observation staff to the U.N. Conciliation Commission. Gen. Riley is expected to arrive at Lake Success Thursday.

BRITISH TROOPS LAND AT AQABA, WASHINGTON HEARS; DENY JEWS OCCUPIED EGYPTIAN BASES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Diplomatic information has been received here to the effect that the British have landed troops at the Red Sea port of Aqaba in Transjordan. This information indicates that definite action has already been taken by the British to counter Israeli military successes, although no information has been forthcoming that the British intend to commit the troops.

Informed sources here believe that current attacks in London against the Israelis as "aggressors," plus today's Cabinet meeting on the Middle East problem may be intended to screen the Aqaba development.

Informed quarters here describe as inaccurate information presented today to the British Cabinet by Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin that Israeli forces had occupied two air bases in Egyptian territory. According to information available here neither of the two bases--Rafah and El Arish--are in Israeli hands.

Rafah, on the Egyptian-Israeli border, has been attacked by Israeli planes, but no troops are inside the town, it is reported. An indication of the absence of Israeli troops is the fact that Israeli planes bombed the town two nights ago. El Arish, according to this information, was attacked about a week ago in a commando raid aimed at crippling the air base. The Israeli commandos were veterans of similar raids during the war against Rommel's bases.

An answer to the U.S. request for information from Israel on the current military situation regarding Egypt is expected here momentarily.

JERUSALEM ALERTED FOR 30 MINUTES WHEN LONE PLANE APPEARS OVERHEAD; NO BOMBS DROPPED

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Jerusalem was alerted for 30 minutes today when a lone Iraqi plane appeared over the city. No bombs were dropped.

Mayor Daniel Auster today protested to the Consular Truce Commission against the week-end bombing of the Holy City. He said that a home for the aged and a synagogue had been hit in the air attacks against Jerusalem's residential quarters.

GREATEST BATTLE ON IN NEGEV, ISRAEL ANNOUNCES; DENIES INVASION OF TRANSJORDAN

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Operations in the current fighting in the Negev are much greater than in any other previous engagement there, it was officially announced here today. The announcement added that the Egyptian resistance is much firmer than in previous battles.

The Israeli military authorities are faced with a major problem because of the very great number of Egyptian prisoners of war now in their hands, it was learned here today. The present camp accommodations are inadequate for housing all the prisoners.

An Israeli spokesman today denied reports of an alleged Israeli invasion of Transjordan, stating that "we are not any nearer the Transjordan frontier than we were two or three weeks ago."

An official announcement this morning revealed that a two-hour clash occurred last night between Israeli and Iraqi forces near Ramath Hakovesh, on the central front. Two Jews were killed and a number of Iraqis are believed to be casualties. The clash resulted from Israeli troops hunting down Arab bandits who killed two settlers in neighboring colonies and kidnapped their wives.

Premier David Ben Gurion, addressing a reception in honor of foreign enlisted men in the Israeli Army yesterday, said that "signs are visible that peace may come soon." He added that "we will welcome peace at any time, but as long as the enemy still shirks peace negotiations the highest alert is necessary." He also pointed out that difficult tasks face Israel on the domestic and foreign fronts. He thanked the Jews of the United States, S. Africa, Canada, France and Czechoslovakia who were particularly valuable in aiding the Israeli Air Force to achieve mastery of the skies.

Israel Gives Egypt Stern Warning Against Threatened Use of Gas in Negev

The Egyptian high command was last night sternly warned that it would "deeply regret" any use of gas against Jewish settlements. The warning was given by Col. Yigal Yadin, chief of operations of the Israeli Army, in reply to Egyptian charges that the Jews had used gas against Egyptian troops in the Faluja pocket and their threats to retaliate against Jewish settlements.

The Egyptian accusation was contained in a complaint to the United Nations Saturday, it was officially announced here. Brig. Gen. William Riley, U.N. chief of staff in Palestine, immediately communicated the charges to Israel and Col. Yadin forwarded a complete and firm denial to Riley that night. Today, an Israeli spokesman called on U.N. observers to investigate the "Faluja gas hoax."

Col. Yadin's letter said: "We can only assume that these charges were prompted by one of three reasons: either out of despair the Egyptians are preparing the ground for using gas; or, after their defeat in the field, they have perhaps invented the use of gas by us as a scapegoat; or else it is a trick of the Egyptian commander at Faluja, after the failure of a camel caravan to reach Faluja, invented to prompt the Egyptian high command to relieve the Faluja garrison."

"If the first assumption is correct it would impel us to take action that would make the Egyptian General Officer in Command regret the day he tried to fool the acting mediator, Gen. Riley or ourselves. None of our weapons use anything even resembling gas."

EBAN DENIES THAT U.S. THREATENED TO RECONSIDER RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

ROME, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Aubrey S. Eban, Israeli delegate to the United Nations, denied at a press conference here today reports that the United States had notified Israel of an intention to reconsider recognition of the Jewish state if its troops moved into Egyptian territory.

Declining to say whether Washington had been in touch with the Israeli Government regarding the alleged penetration of Egypt, Eban emphasized that all recent communications from Washington to Tel Aviv evidenced "the desire of the United States to maintain the closest relations with Israel." Eban left Tel Aviv yesterday on the way to Lake Success for the Security Council meeting.

In commenting on the British attitude, Eban said: "First, Israel has no intention of occupying or annexing any part of the territory of Egypt or any other Arab state. Second, Egypt and not Israel is the aggressor." He deplored the fact that "the invasion and deep penetration of Israeli territory by Egyptian troops didn't evoke protests from London."

"It doesn't matter," he said, "if Arab troops invade and bomb Israel, but if, in repelling aggression, Jewish troops temporarily enter Egypt, England sees a threat to international peace." He asserted that Israel's task at Lake Success will be to explain the current Negev developments in the light of international law and the United Nations Charter. Israel, he added, considers the presence of Egyptian troops in the Negev a threat to its territorial and political integrity which is expressly forbidden by the Charter.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ASSURES U.S. NONE OF ITS TROOPS NOW REMAIN ON EGYPTIAN SOIL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The Provisional Government of Israel has assured the United States Government that no Israeli troops remain on Egyptian soil, the State Department announced tonight.

In a statement the Department recalled the events leading up to the Israeli Government's reply, received at the Department today. The British Ambassador, Sir Oliver Franks, informed Acting Secretary of State Robert A. Lovett last Thursday of the British concern lest presence of Israeli forces in Egypt might bring up treaty obligations that they would have to fulfill.

Over the week-end the State Department instructed the American representative in Tel Aviv, James McDonald, to bring the situation to the attention of the Provisional Government of Israel, the Department said tonight. The Israeli Government replied today that Israeli troops had invaded Egypt "only in the course of military operations" and not with the intention of remaining on Egyptian soil.

Following this, the Department said, the American representative at Cairo was instructed to inform the Egyptian Government that the recent aerial and naval attacks on Tel Aviv "can only result in further extending the hostilities." The Egyptian Government has not yet replied to this representation, State Department press officer Michael J. McDermott told reporters.

McDermott branded as "completely untrue" the reports that the United States had warned Israel that further incursion into Egyptian territory would cost them full recognition or the chance to get a \$100,000,000 loan. He also said, in response to questioning, that it was his understanding that the British treaty with Egypt did, in fact, obligate them to go to the assistance of Egypt should Egypt be attacked.

U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL WANTS PALESTINE CONCILIATION COMMISSION TO MEET NEXT WEEK

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie today pressed for the immediate functioning of the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission composed of representatives of the United States, France and Turkey.

It is understood that Lie wants the Conciliation Commission to meet next week either in Paris or in Geneva, in order to prevent Britain from carrying out her threat to come to the aid of Egypt against Israel by supplying the Egyptian troops with arms.

JOSEPH KEENAN SWORN IN AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ON PALESTINE CONCILIATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Joseph B. Keenan was sworn in this morning as United States representative on the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine by Stanley Woodward, State Department Chief of Protocol.

The ceremony, which took place in Woodward's office, was attended by Joseph G. Satterthwaite, director of the Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs; Dean Rusk, director of the State Department Office of United Nations Affairs; Robert M. McClintock, special assistant to Rusk; Fraser Wilkins, acting assistant chief of the Division of Near Eastern Affairs; Samuel Kopper, advisor on United Nations affairs, and Stuart Rockwell, Palestine desk officer.

Keenan said after the ceremony that plans had not been completed for his leaving for his post and for selecting the place where he would meet the French and Turkish representatives of the Conciliation Commission. Asked if he is hopeful about the possibility of achieving a solution in the Palestine problem, he replied "I'm always optimistic."

TURKEY APPOINTS ITS MEMBER TO U.N. PALESTINE CONCILIATION COMMISSION; BODY COMPLETED

ISTANBUL, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Hussein Jahid Yaltchin, well-known Turkish newspaper man and member of the People's Party, which controls the government, has been named Turkey's representative on the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission, it was officially announced here today.

Yaltchin, a member of the Turkish National Assembly, favored the admission of an Israeli representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at the last meeting of the organization in Beirut, which he attended as Turkey's representative. This appointment completes the membership of the Conciliation Commission, since the United States and France, the other two members of the body, have already named their representatives.

HEAD OF U.N. TRUCE COMMISSION DISCUSSES INTERNATIONALIZATION OF JERUSALEM WITH ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Plans for the internationalization of Jerusalem were discussed today at a conference between Israeli military governor for Jerusalem Dr. Bernard Joseph and Belgian Consul-General Jean Nieuwenhuys, chairman of the Consular Truce Commission, who just returned here from Paris.

Two Jewish nurses--Chava Kirshenbaum and Malka Shalit--who were imprisoned in Transjordan following their capture in the Old City by Arab Legion troops were exchanged today across "no-man's land" for one Israeli-held Arab Legionnaire.

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ALLIANCE ISRAELITE STARTS CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS FOR ITS SCHOOLS IN MOROCCO

NEW YORK, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The Alliance Israelite Universelle has started a program of construction of new buildings for its schools in Morocco, it was announced here today by the American Friends of the Alliance.

The new program will make it possible to increase the number of Alliance students in Morocco, within a period of five to seven years, from the present enrollment of 20,000 to 35,000. The enrollment in all the Alliance Schools in Israel and in Moslem countries is at present about 48,000.

NEW YORK STATE GRANTS CHARTER TO HEBREW UNION SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND SACRED MUSIC

NEW YORK, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York has granted a charter to the Hebrew Union School of Education and Sacred Music, Dr. Abraham N. Franzblau, dean of the school, announced today. The new institution was formerly known as the Hebrew Union School of Jewish Education and the Hebrew Union School of Jewish Sacred Music. It is sponsored by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, in cooperation with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA TAKES OVER SPONSORSHIP OF DAILY BROADCASTS FROM ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Israeli Consul-General Arthur Lourie was among the 400 persons who participated yesterday in ceremonies inaugurating Zionist Organization of America sponsorship of daily broadcasts from Israel to be carried by Radio Station WMCA. The direct Tel Aviv broadcasts will be heard Monday through Friday evenings from 7:04 to 7:15 P.M. Nathan Straus, president of the station, greeted the guests.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF OLDEST YM-YWHA WILL BE CELEBRATED IN MARCH

NEW YORK, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The 75th anniversary of the establishment of the 92nd St. Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association here will be marked this year at a special series of programs in March, it was announced today. The "Y"--the oldest Jewish community center in the U.S.--was first set up in 1874 and its first site was located on what is now the headquarters of the General Post Office in New York.

LEWIS BROWNE, AUTHOR ON JEWISH SUBJECTS, DIES BY HIS OWN HAND IN CALIFORNIA; WAS 51

SANTA MONICA, Calif., Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Lewis Browne, well-known author and lecturer on Jewish subjects who gave up the rabbinate to devote himself to writing, died by his own hand here yesterday at the age of 51. Mr. Browne, who had been suffering from an eye ailment, left a note expressing regrets at "what I am about to do." Police listed the death as an apparent suicide by poison.

A graduate of Hebrew Union College, he served in pulpits in Waterbury, Conn., and Newark, N.J., before leaving the ministry. Among his best-known works are "Why Jews Are Like That," "The Wisdom of Israel" and "How Odd of God." Mr. Browne was born in London and was brought to the United States at the age of 13.