

Tuesday, January 11, 1949

JTA Daily News Bulletin

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

ISRAELI DELEGATION AT U.N. GETS INSTRUCTIONS TO CHARGE BRITAIN WITH BREACH OF TRUCE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- The Israeli delegation at Lake Success has been instructed to charge Britain at the U.N. Security Council with a breach of truce in connection with the landing of British forces at the Transjordan port of Aqaba, it was announced here today.

An Israeli spokesman today charged that "if Britain wants to torpedo the Egyptian-Israeli armistice talks it could not do better" than its present marshalling of land, sea and air forces at Aqaba. He described the British moves in the "war of nerves" as not providing the proper setting for the forthcoming negotiations at Rhodes.

Acting U.N. mediator Ralph J. Bunche has advised Israel and Egypt to send to the Rhodes talks three or four high army officers, each, and two senior Foreign Office officials. He also informed the two governments that the talks will not be on a ministerial level. The Israeli Cabinet, meanwhile, has decided to hold up the appointment of its representatives to the parley until it sees the rank of the Egyptian representatives.

Last Israeli Troops Leave Egyptian Territory

An official announcement here tonight said that the last Israeli troops left Egyptian soil yesterday. The Jewish soldiers withdrew from a height overlooking the Rafa-Auja road which is some three miles inside Egypt and which they captured last week.

The British have made a third attempt to deliver their note of protest over the downing of five R.A.F. planes by Israeli forces last week. Last night the British consul general in Haifa phoned Harry Beilin, Israeli Foreign Office official in Haifa, and offered to make changes in the address of his original communication to the "Jewish authorities." He said that his "new instructions" were to deliver his note and an accompanying memorandum to the "Israeli Government" and that he would send Beilin a note to that effect this morning.

However, today the Briton phoned Beilin and said that he had "exceeded his instructions" and would merely send a cover letter addressed to Harry Beilin, Esquire, asking him to forward the first note to the Israeli Government. The official view here is that the new note will not change the situation much in relation to accepting communications from Britain which are not properly addressed to the Government of the Jewish state.

An Israeli spokesman ridiculed reports of an alleged denial by the U.N. that its observers saw the wreckage of a British plane in Israel. "We have photographs of the observers" viewing the wreckage, he said. He added that the U.N. has acknowledged receipt of Israel's protest over the British troop landings in Transjordan, but that as yet there were no results from a U.N. investigation requested by the Israeli Government.

Fifteen armored vehicles were today released by Haifa port authorities to the U.N. When they first arrived the Israelis held the armored cars until U.N. personnel explained that they were destined for the use of members of the U.N. Conciliation Commission.

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONFIDENT BRITISH-ISRAELI TENSION WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH TRUCE TALKS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- The State Department is confident that the "regrettable incident"--the shooting down by Israeli units of British planes last week--will remain only an incident and will not interfere with truce negotiations to begin later this week, it was emphasized in an official statement today. The statement reads:

"Concerning the shooting down of British planes by Israeli forces: The State Department is receiving information concerning the incident from both the British and the Israeli Government. We have every confidence that, regrettable as it is, it will be considered as a regrettable incident only and that it will not interfere with the truce negotiations which are to take place in Rhodes later this week. The State Department has been given to understand that if there are any Israeli troops still in Egyptian territory they are in the process of being withdrawn."

A spokesman for the State Department today revealed that the U.S. Government was "informed but not consulted" about the projected British troop movements in the Palestine area. Asked about reports from London to the effect that the British requested the United States to take a strong position supporting them in their stand in the situation, he said that the United States had no requests from the British asking the U.S. to take any kind of stand in the matter. "They have given us their account of the situation," he said.

He declined to answer a question as to whether the British informed this government of troop movements other than forces sent to Aqaba. Nor would he comment on a question as to whether the United States told the British how it felt about the prospect of British troop movements in that area.

Eliahu Epstein, Israeli envoy to the U.S., today conferred with Joseph C. Satherthwaite, chief of the State Department Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs. He reviewed the current Israel situation, based on the latest reports from Tel Aviv.

Presidential press secretary Charles G. Ross denied a Reuters report from Tel Aviv to the effect that President Truman called James G. McDonald, U.S. special representative to Israel, and talked with him via trans-Atlantic telephone for 15 minutes about the current situation in Palestine. "That is untrue," Ross said.

BRITAIN WILL NOT BRING ITS CASE AGAINST ISRAEL TO U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL; CAUTIONED BY US

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- Apparently cautioned by the U.S. Government, Britain will not bring any case against Israel before the U.N. Security Council, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned here today on good authority.

This information became known following consultations held here today between U.N. Secretary General Trygve Lie and Sir Terrence Schone, Britain's acting representative to the Security Council. The two discussed the British note protesting the shooting down by Israeli forces of British planes in the Negev.

United Nations officials today expressed the conviction that the British-Israeli conflict will have no effect upon the armistice talks between Egypt and Israel scheduled to start in Rhodes in Wednesday. The United Nations Secretariat indicated that there is ground for belief that the armistice talks will begin on schedule.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER SUMMONS FULL SESSION OF CABINET TO ACT ON CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL

LONDON, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- A full session of the British Cabinet to deal with the downing by Israeli forces of five British planes in the Negev will be held on Wednesday, it was learned here today. The meeting was convoked by Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee after hearing a full report today from Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin and after consultation with high-ranking military experts.

A Foreign Office spokesman today stated that Britain is not violating any decisions of the U.N. Security Council by sending troops to Aqaba in Transjordan. The Security Council, he said, was aware of the existence of British military installations in Transjordan when it adopted its May 29 resolution on cessation of all acts of armed force in Palestine and had no objection to the supplying of personnel and equipment for these installations. He termed as "impertinent" the Israeli complaint against Britain to the United Nations.

The highly influential, liberal Manchester Guardian today bluntly warned Foreign Secretary Bevin that the British people will not follow his Palestine policy and "recoil from the idea of an attack on Israel." The newspaper editorially denounced the sending of aircraft to the battle zone in Palestine and the sudden withdrawal of technicians from Haifa. While the dispatch of troops to Aqaba is defensible, the Guardian said, it was "ill timed" because it gives an "air of a concerted plan of action against Israel."

The Guardian was almost alone among today's newspapers, most of which were fairly violent in their language. Most of the newspapers also either called on the United States to bring Israel into line or reexamine its position in relation to the Jewish state. The London Times described the shooting down of the five R.A.F. planes over Israeli territory last Friday as an "unfriendly, provocative act." The Yorkshire Post, spokesman for Anthony Eden, former Foreign Secretary and Conservative Party leader, said that "British airmen have been shot down as a result of violation of the Security Council's decree by Communist plotters and American Zionists linked in an opportunist alliance."

The Daily Telegraph termed the incident an "act of madness" and the "latest act of aggression" by the Israelis, while the Daily Mail said that if "Israel backed by Russia" secures a strong position in the Middle East it will be a "greater threat to the West than a China dominated by Communism." The News Chronicle warned Israel not to strain British friendship too far and suggested that a U.N. force was still needed in Palestine and that if one could not be recruited Britain and the U.S. must find a common policy on Palestine in order to bolster the U.N.

American Press Says Conflict Must Not Interfere with Armistice Talks

NEW YORK, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- The mounting crisis between Britain and Israel over the shooting down of five R.A.F. planes over Israel last week and the dispatching of British troops and naval units to Transjordan are viewed in the New York press as one aspect of the overall problem of peace in the Middle East.

The Herald Tribune, after reviewing the latest developments, declared that the most important element in the present situation remains the negotiations between Israel and Egypt for an armistice and that no "provocative acts" from whatever quarter should be permitted to interfere with the talks. The Times viewed the "flare-up in Palestine" as resulting from "Britain's determination to retain control of the Suez Canal and influence in the Middle East" and the "determination of some Israeli extremists to conquer all Palestine."

MAPAM STILL EXISTS IN RUMANIA AS ONLY ZIONIST GROUP; PREPARES TO DISSOLVE

BUCHAREST, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- Mapam, the only Zionist group in Rumania not dissolved in the recent suspension of Zionist activities in this country, indicated today that it will eventually dissolve itself. A Mapam spokesman said that the organization has already reduced its activities to a minimum.

The Rumanian Zionist groups voluntarily disbanded in the suspension program are Mapai, the General Zionists, Haeved Hazioni, Mizrachi and Hasmona, a student body. The Hechalutz organization is still in existence because of the difficulty encountered in dissolving the large number of its camps in which prospective immigrants to Israel receive agricultural training.

LEADER OF HUNGARIAN ANTI-SEMITIC GROUP ARRESTED IN AUSTRIA; RECOGNIZED BY VICTIM

VIENNA, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- United States military police in Linz have arrested a Hungarian accused of being a notorious Arrow Cross officer during the war. He was detected and denounced by one of his victims while hiding under an assumed name at the Asten camp for displaced persons.

The accused man, who was turned over to the Austrian authorities, is identified as Johann Korsos, who is wanted by the police on charges of maltreating Jews in Hungary under the fascist regime during the war. He has confessed that he was living under a false name and that he was attempting to migrate to Canada.

UNIVERSAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR JEWISH MARTYRS TO BE OBSERVED TODAY IN EUROPE, U.S., ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- The Chief Rabbinical Council for Israel has proclaimed tomorrow, the tenth day of the Hebrew month Teveth and traditionally a fast day, as a day of remembrance for the 6,000,000 European Jews who perished at the hands of the Nazis during the war.

A special memorial light will be kindled tonight and tomorrow in every Jewish home and synagogue. The Kaddish prayer will be recited in public except by those with two living parents. A special memorial service will take place in the Great Synagogue here in which participants will fast and recite traditional memorial prayers. Special religious services will also be held in Israeli Army camps.

(Similar services will be held also in the United States and in various European countries. Dr. Robert Gordis, president of the Synagogue Council of America, said today that observance of the universal "Day of Mourning" for the Jewish martyrs will be established as an annual Memorial Day on which Jews the world over will commemorate the murder of millions of their brethren in this last decade.)

SPAIN PERMITS DESCENDANTS OF SEPHARDIC JEWS EXPELLED IN 1492 TO RETURN TO COUNTRY

NEW YORK, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- The Spanish Government today published a decree permitting Sephardic Jews, descendants of the Jews driven out of Spain in 1492, to return to the country, the Associated Press reported from Madrid. The decree appeared in the current issue of the official Government Journal.

BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT GRANTS SUBSIDY TO CRT SCHOOL IN SOFIA

SOFIA, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- The Bulgarian Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor have each granted a 1,000,000-leva subsidy to the CRT school here, it was announced today.

TRUMAN ASKS CONGRESS FOR \$5,200,000 FOR DP COMMISSION; SENATE GETS NEW DP MEASURE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- President Truman asked Congress today to grant the Displaced Persons Commission a \$5,200,000 appropriation for its work in bringing displaced persons to this country during the last half of this year and the first six months of 1950.

In his budget, delivered to Congress today, the President said: "It is my hope that the present Displaced Persons Act will be speedily stripped of its restrictive and discriminatory provisions in order that we may make a contribution to this program more worthy of our best traditions."

Senators J. Howard McGrath, Democrat of Rhode Island, and Matthew Neely, Democrat of West Virginia, today introduced a displaced persons bill which would completely overhaul the present law to eliminate its discriminatory and unworkable features and raise the number admissible to 400,000 in four years.

The McGrath-Neely Bill would change the present cut-off date, which discriminates against Jewish DP's, from Dec. 22, 1945, to April 21, 1947, would eliminate the 40 percent priority for Balts and substitute a clause prohibiting discrimination "in favor of or against any DP on account of his race, religion or national origin," and would erase the section of the law giving 30 percent of the visas to agriculturalists.

WEIZMANN AND BEN GURION APPEAL TO MORGENTHAU TO RETAIN U.J.A. CHAIRMANSHIP

NEW YORK, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- President Chaim Weizmann of Israel, Premier Ben Gurion and Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan have jointly appealed to Henry Morgenthau, Jr. to accept for a third term the general chairmanship of the United Jewish Appeal, it was revealed here today in connection with the U.J.A. national conference which is to open in Atlantic City on Wednesday.

A similar appeal was addressed to Morgenthau by Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee. A committee to draft Morgenthau has been formed under the chairmanship of Milton Kahn, president of the Associated Jewish Philanthropies of Boston. The text of the cabled plea by the government leaders in Israel to Morgenthau reads:

"We find it difficult to convey to you our deep distress and anxious concern caused by your withdrawal from the United Jewish Appeal, which you have raised to such unprecedented heights during your chairmanship. Your labors and statesmanship in organizing and inspiring American Jewry to unique achievement during the past two years form an integral part of the very foundations of the state of Israel. We are now facing a stupendous task while still fighting for our very existence and of filling the framework attained by the past two years of labors and sacrifice. Our first objective during 1949 is the absorption of 300,000 homeless Jews who cannot continue in their present untenable position. This tremendous task, with all its ancillary problems, can be solved only if American Jewry continues during the coming year to contribute on the scale which you have taught.

"No one familiar with the true facts of the situation can have any doubt that you and you alone can organize the decisive effort demanded by this historic hour. You who were with us a few weeks ago have seen our achievements and our struggles. None other than you can convey to American Jewry the sense of the stupendous mission which is theirs to perform in 1949. We cannot conceive that you should permit the unique effort you started during the past two years to suffer. For the sake of Israel, for the sake of our young state, and for the sake of the long-suffering homeless Jews, we beg you to rise above the ephemeral difficulties and to come back to resume the reins of the United Jewish Appeal. We cannot believe you will fail us in this crucial hour."

