

Friday, January 14, 1949

TA *Daily News Bulletin*

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

U.J.A. SETS \$250,000,000 QUOTA FOR 1949; U.S. WILL NOT BACK BRITAIN AGAINST ISRAEL

ATLANTIC CITY, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- The government and the people of the United States will not assist Britain in any attempt that may threaten the existence of Israel, Aubrey S. Eban, Israeli representative to the United Nations, told the 1,200 delegates attending the national conference of the United Jewish Appeal which this afternoon proclaimed a \$250,000,000 quota for 1949.

Bitterly attacking British military manipulations against Israel and charging the British Government with endangering the peace and sabotaging truce negotiations between Israel and the Arab states, Eban said: "It has been made abundantly plain to me in conferences in Washington and New York that the assistance of the United States Government and people is not available for any project which threatens the existence of Israel."

The Israeli representative emphasized that "at the first available opportunity my government must request the attention of the Security Council to the fact that the Government of the United Kingdom is repudiating its obligations under the truce." He stressed that all the energy and effort of the Israeli Government, at the moment, are being concentrated on the successful conclusion of the armistice negotiations.

Israel Refuses to be Intimidated by Threats, Eban Says

Eban declared that the relaxation of the tension in Israel within the last 48 hours is due to a combination of the Israeli Government's "tenacious refusal to be intimidated by threats" and "the constructive efforts of the United States Government in confronting all parties with their peace-making obligations."

He expressed the hope that the attitude of the U.S. Government, and of other members of the Security Council, will discourage any development or renewal of the British threat to Israel. Israel will continue to do everything in its power to diminish the tension and advance the cause of peace, Eban said. He emphasized that the interests and the ideals of Israel command the Jewish state, at all times, to adhere "to our real preference, which is for peace." He added that "the peace must be founded on the true territorial and political integrity of Israel," and that it must assure to Israel and its neighbors full sovereign equality, national freedom and a place in the community of nations.

In his criticism of Britain, Eban pointed out that the British Government, which is "a custodian of international peace," is using the commencement of the Israeli-Egyptian armistice talks as an occasion for organizing a great military, naval, aerial, political, psychological and diplomatic threat against the state of Israel.

In adopting the \$250,000,000 quota for 1949, the U.J.A. conference called upon American Jewry to make its maximum effort. "This is one historic Jewish hour; this is American Jewry's historic opportunity," the call said. Action on the quota was taken

after a special committee analyzed the budgetary requirements which the United Palestine Appeal, Joint Distribution Committee and United Service for New Americans submitted yesterday.

The conference adopted a resolution pledging to serve the Jews in Europe and Israel "in the highest tradition" and to dedicate the resources of the Jewish community of the United States to the mass settlement and upbuilding of Israel, to the emptying of the DP camps before the end of 1949, and to the immigration and rehabilitation of displaced Jews in various countries.

Israel Plans to Launch "Little TVA" in Negev, Dr. Joseph Reports

Dr. Bernard Joseph, Israeli military governor of Jerusalem, revealed that the Israeli Government is planning to launch a "little TVA" at a cost of approximately \$200,000,000 to make the Negev a home for 300,000 Jewish refugees. The establishment of many new settlements in that area has already been blueprinted and construction will begin as soon as the necessary funds can be made available, Dr. Joseph reported.

He said that there are, at present, 25 Jewish settlements in the Negev which formed the backbone of the successful defense by the Israeli Army. In the next decade, 300,000 Jews will be settled there, he added.

"We shall never give up Jerusalem to please the desires of foreign states who would like to see the city internationalized," the military governor declared. "The new Jerusalem, where 90,000 Jews live, is our city and ours it will stay." Dr. Joseph stressed, however, that the Israeli Government would agree to the internationalization of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, another major speaker today, said that barring accidents the work undertaken for the displaced Jews of Europe, would be completed within three years. Warburg told the delegates that by this time next year only 30,000 Jews should remain in the DP camps--these will include people unable to go to Israel because they are ill, and those awaiting immigration to the United States and other lands. He also dwelt at great length on the plight of the Jews in North Africa.

(At the time the Bulletin went to press, the two-day U.J.A. conference was still in session, with Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, national chairman of the U.J.A., and a number of other Jewish leaders, still scheduled to speak at the closing meeting.)

JTA DIRECTOR PROTESTS UJA OFFICIAL'S CONFISCATION OF NEWS BULLETINS AT CONVENTION

ATLANTIC CITY, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- The following wire was sent today by Mr. Jacob Landau, managing director of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, to the three chairmen of the United Jewish Appeal, Mr. Herman Weisman, Dr. Jonah B. Wise and Mr. William Rosenwald:

"On behalf of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, I wish to register an emphatic protest against the highhanded action taken by an officer of the United Jewish Appeal in violation of the principle of a free press. Yesterday Mr. Meyer Steinglass, director of UJA publicity, confiscated 250 copies of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Bulletin of Jan. 12 because it contained a report which he chose to term "filthy propaganda." He tore a JTA bulletin out of the hands of a New Jersey delegate and also tore JTA press wires off the walls in the presence of Isidore Sobeloff, Leo Gellin, Herman Pekarsky and other delegates. Steinglass also threatened to remove the JTA teleprinter from the lobby. I have no doubt that you will want to disassociate yourselves from and voice your disapproval of such reprehensible behavior by an official of the UJA. The JTA must insist on a written apology from Mr. Steinglass and his reimbursing of the JTA for damages and expenditures caused by his action. Jacob Landau, Managing Director, Jewish Telegraphic Agency."

BRITAIN ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANES SHOT DOWN OVER ISRAEL

LONDON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Britain today assumed full responsibility for the reconnaissance mission during which five British planes were shot down over Israeli territory last week, a carefully-worded Foreign Office statement said today. A spokesman for the Foreign Office added qualifying considerations, however, which were taken here to mean that the British are shifting considerable blame on the United States.

Toward the end of 1948, the State Department in conversations with British officials complained that information about "Israeli aggression" was not obtainable through United Nations sources, the spokesman said. He added that the State Department "badly wanted to know what was happening" and, since the British had recourse to the only means of obtaining this information, the reconnaissance flight was ordered. The spokesman declined to reply to a question as to whether the State Department had been told that the reconnaissance flight would be undertaken.

The London Daily Telegraph, in a story headlined "Washington Request Led to R.A.F. Action," reported today that "what has not been stated is that the British Government decided to entrust to the R.A.F. the difficult task of gaining irrefutable information about Israeli military movements over the Palestine-Egyptian border on the suggestion of the U.S. State Department that such information ought to be obtained."

State Dept. Denies Responsibility for British Flights Over Israel

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- A State Department spokesman today denied a London Daily Telegraph report that the U.S. Government was responsible for the British reconnaissance flight last week in the course of which Israeli forces downed five R.A.F. planes. He added that a British Foreign Office statement accepting full responsibility for Britain was correct.

The spokesman pointed out that the Department was "naturally concerned" over reports of incursions into Egyptian territory by Israeli forces. He said the first information was furnished by the British and subsequently confirmed by reports received from Israeli and Egyptian officials. The spokesman added that the State Department had never asked the British Government for information regarding Israeli troop movements, although it has asked Israeli and Egyptian authorities for such information.

U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie, in a telegram to the Washington Post which the newspaper published today in a review of the British-Israeli conflict, denied that U.N. observers had asked Britain to carry out any reconnaissance in the Israel-Egyptian border region. Replying to a wire from the Post which informed him of a British report to that effect, Lie said: "Information suggested your telegram to effect that British planes were carrying out reconnaissance on behalf United Nations observers incorrect."

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL CALLS URGENT CONFERENCE ON BRITISH-ISRAELI CRISIS

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- The American Zionist Emergency Council today announced an extraordinary emergency conference of Jewish leaders to meet on Tuesday, Jan. 18, at the Park Central Hotel here. The urgent meeting will formulate a program to thwart "current British preparations for military intervention against Israel."

The Council's message to the Jewish leaders said: "Current British preparations for military intervention against Israel, coupled with increasing British pressure to prevent peace in Palestine and to reduce Israel's territory, pose a grave problem for all Jews in America interested in the cause of peace and eager to help Israel defend its rights. In the circumstances, the American Zionist Emergency Council deems it its duty to share its information regarding the situation with all major Jewish organizations in the country and to consult with them regarding the necessary steps to be taken in this grave emergency."

TRUMAN DENIES U.S. APPROVED R.A.F. FLIGHTS OVER ISRAEL; RECEIVES BRITISH AMBASSADOR

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- President Truman denied at his news conference this afternoon that there was any truth to British press reports that the U.S. had approved the use of R.A.F. planes for reconnaissance flights over Egyptian-Israeli border areas.

Asked whether there had been any change in U.S. policy toward Israel, the President stated that this country's policy stood on the November 20th statement by Philip Jessup, U.S. delegate, before the United Nations. (At that time Jessup said that any changes in Israeli territory must first be agreed to by Israel.) Replying to a question as to whether U.S.-British relations have become strained recently, the President replied that they have not.

He said he knew nothing about reports that he would appoint Rabbi Samuel Thurman of St. Louis as the first U.S. Minister to Israel.

Earlier, British Ambassador Sir Oliver Franks called on President Truman and informed him of the official British view on the present British-Israeli crisis. After the meeting, Sir Oliver declined to reveal whether Mr. Truman outlined the American position on the matter. He also declined to comment on a report that he had been instructed by London to "get tough" with the U.S. Government on the Palestine question.

(In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said that the object of Frank's interview with Truman was to make plain the British Government's attitude on Palestine, "elicit the American attitude" and try to achieve some accord on a final settlement for Palestine.)

BRITAIN RELEASED 6,000 NAZIS TO AID EGYPTIAN WAR EFFORT, NATION ASSOCIATES CHARGE

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Charges that the British have released 6,000 former Nazi prisoners of war for training in Egypt for participation in the war against Israel, and that Nazi Generals have been flown from the British zone in Germany by British military planes to assist in the command of the Arab armies, are contained in a secret French intelligence report submitted today to Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations, to members of the Security Council and to President Truman by the Nation Associates.

The French intelligence report, dated Dec. 8, 1948, affirms that two brigades of former Nazi prisoners of war stationed in Egypt have been formed by the Egyptians with the permission of the British military authorities and are now being trained in Marsa-Matruh and Sollum, both in Egypt. Former Nazi generals resident in the British zone in Germany, at least one of whom is listed as a war criminal, have been recruited for service with the Iraqi-Transjordanian high command, the Syrian high command and the Lebanese high command, the French report declares, adding that all were transported to the Middle East aboard British military planes and brought from Hamburg to Beirut.

The report also states that the two brigades in their lower ranks are commanded by some 500 Nazis recruited from among internees in Egypt, the Levant and Iraq, and from among the crews of German merchant ships seized in the course of operations. Finally, it says that a new group of high German officers is expected at Damascus.

At Lake Success, Sir Alexander Cadogan, British representative to the U.N. Security Council, said: "I should be extraordinarily surprised if anything of the kind has happened. I am quite confident it did not."

ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN ARMISTICE TALKS OPEN IN RHODES; MEDIATOR MEETS WITH BOTH SIDES

RHODES, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Joint Israeli-Egyptian armistice meetings were scheduled to begin here today following individual conferences between acting United Nations mediator Dr. Ralph Bunche and Israeli and Egyptian representatives.

Prior to meeting with the Tel Aviv and Cairo envoys, Dr. Bunche appealed to governments to "avoid any incidents or acts which might jeopardize the constructive progress of deliberations towards an armistice accord. I have in mind not only governments involved in these negotiations or in the Palestine conflict," Dr. Bunche continued, "but those as well whose interests impel them to keep close surveillance on developments in the area."

(Reuters reported that Walter Eytan, who heads the Israeli diplomatic mission here, said today he was "extremely conscious" of the importance of the Rhodes talks. "I know that the war in Palestine, like all wars, is an evil thing and we will do our best to bring it to an end. I hope this will be the first of many talks between ourselves and the Arab states," he added.)

ISRAELI STATE COUNCIL TO TRANSFER ACTIVITIES TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY; WILL THEN DISSOLVE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- The Israeli State Council has approved a bill providing for the transfer of its activities to the Constituent Assembly, but will continue to function until the Assembly is selected in the forthcoming elections, it was reported here today. Thereafter, the State Council will immediately dissolve.

Following lengthy discussions between the election committee and the Israeli Government, President Chaim Weizmann was named to open the initial session of the Constituent Assembly. The Assembly will assume all the rights of the State Council, while the Provisional Government will continue until a new government is established. Present emergency regulations have been extended, to terminate two months after the election of the Assembly, unless they are revoked before then by that body.

(A United Press dispatch from Rhodes quoted an Israeli spokesman today as saying that demobilization of the Israeli Army had started and would be accelerated soon.)

WEIZMANN APPEALS TO BRITISH PEOPLE NOT TO PURSUE COURSE LEADING TO WAR WITH ISRAEL

LONDON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- President Chaim Weizmann of Israel was quoted in a dispatch from Rehovoth, his residence, to the London Times today as expressing "deep concern" at the recent deterioration of relations between Britain and Israel and appealing to the British people not to pursue a course which would eventually lead to war.

The Times report also quoted the Israeli President as denying that "Red planes" were owned by the Israeli Government and asserting that no Soviet citizens were in the Jewish state's armed forces. "Strict neutrality is the lifeblood of the state's existence," he added, the Times said.

A government spokesman, commenting on the Times dispatch, declared that "this country has a record of hospitality to Jewish victims of Nazi terror which compares favorably with any other country. This country is as free as any of prejudice from which the Jewish people have suffered so much. As to the origin of the present situation in Palestine, I would refer to previous statements on this question," he added.

Replying to questions, the spokesman said: "We are entirely in agreement with Dr. Weizmann's wish for better relations between this country and Israel." He reiterated a previous statement that the present tension is due to the attitude of Israel. Asked whether the British Dominions were consulted on the Palestine issue, the spokesman said exchanges "took place" as a matter of routine.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN INDICATES HE WILL ACT "RIGHT AWAY" ON CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- President Truman indicated yesterday that he would take action "right away" to translate his civil rights program into legislation, a delegation of the National Citizens Council on Civil Rights, headed by Herbert Bayard Swope, which called on the President, reported here.

Stating that Mr. Truman intended to send his civil rights program to Capitol Hill soon, Mr. Swope revealed that the President said he had several bills in preparation on the subject. Mr. Swope described the President's determination to push the civil rights program "as the most courageous thing that has been done since Abraham Lincoln." Other members of the delegation included former Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson and Morris L. Ernst.

EINSTEIN TO LEAVE HOSPITAL; WARNS AGAINST "CHEAP COMPROMISE" BY U.N. IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Prof. Albert Einstein, who is scheduled to leave Brooklyn Jewish Hospital here after undergoing an abdominal operation, warned last night against a "cheap compromise" with power politics by the U.N. in Israel. He maintained that the failure of the United Nations to solve the Palestine problem to date was weakening its authority throughout the world.

"I have no doubt whatsoever that the new state of Israel will have a very bright future," he said. "I am convinced that Israel and the Arab states can co-exist peacefully and fruitfully as soon as their relationship is no longer affected by systematic disturbances coming from outside." He deplored the U.N.'s delay in admitting Israel to membership, asserting that this "has done great damage to the prestige and influence of the United Nations."

BEN ZVI TENDERED RECEPTION PRIOR TO RETURN TO ISRAEL; EPSTEIN, WISE, LOURIE SPEAK

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Isaac Ben Zvi, president of the Jewish National Council in Israel, was tendered a farewell reception tonight by the National Committee for Labor Israel prior to his return to Tel Aviv. The Histadruth leader has been in this country for the past two months in connection with the current \$10,000,000 campaign being conducted by the Committee in behalf of the Histadruth. Speakers included Israeli envoy to the U.S., Eliahu Epstein; Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, and Israeli Consul-General Arthur Lourie.

Earlier, Ben Zvi told a press conference that Egypt wants the Negev to use as a step to the conquest of Israel and not for development of the desert. In Israeli hands, he said, the Negev will be irrigated and developed, but if it were given to Egypt, it would remain a desert for years.

DR. LEO WULMAN, OSE LEADER, TENDERED FAREWELL RECEPTION IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Dr. Leo Wulman, secretary of the American Committee for OSE, was tendered a farewell dinner here by officials of the health organization in Israel prior to his return to the U.S. Dr. I. Katznelson, director-general of the Israeli Department of Health, lauded the OSE for its decision to expand its activities in this country.

HIAS BANK IN N.Y. BEGINS TRANSMISSION OF FUNDS TO INDIVIDUALS IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- The transmission of funds to individuals in Israel, arrangements for which were recently concluded in Tel Aviv, will begin today, it was announced here by HIAS. Cash remittances for newly-arrived immigrants in Israel will be accepted at the HIAS Immigrant Bank here, the announcement added.

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