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COMMONS POSTPONES PALESTINE DEBATE; BEVIN ANNOUNCES CYPRUS INTERNEES TO BE FREED

LONDON, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The House of Commons today postponed a debate on the Palestine problem for a week following such a request by Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin who told Parliament that because of the "delicate negotiations" now in progress between Israel and Egypt on the island of Rhodes he did not think that it would be wise for the government to declare its Palestine policy.

Bevin also announced that Jewish refugees interned on Cyprus because they are of military age will now be permitted to go to Israel whenever the Jews provide transport for them. He asserted that a "favorable situation" for the release of these men had arisen. He added that U.N. mediator Ralph J. Bunche had been informed of this decision.

Former Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who originally raised the Palestine question and later insisted on a full dress debate next week rather than a statement as Bevin suggested, attacked the Secretary's action in releasing the Cyprus internees. He insisted that the announcement that "a considerable number of men of military age" are being released from Cyprus in order that they may "join the Jewish forces" did not "fit in very well with drastic military action" taken in the opposite direction.

Bevin retorted that he had been endeavoring to deal with the Cyprus situation for some time. He also stated that he was not interested in preserving his reputation but in taking all possible actions in behalf of peace. In response to a challenge by Clement Davies, leader of the Liberal Party, who demanded to know why Britain had sent troops to Egypt, Transjordan and Palestine in defiance of the Security Council's resolution of May 29, 1948, Bevin declared that the troops sent to Transjordan were dispatched under the Anglo-Transjordan Treaty and there was no obligation to seek the Council's assent.

Churchill Stresses Need for British Recognition of Israel

Resuming their personal debate, Churchill asked that the British troops at Agaba not be permitted to "scuttle away" before the Parliamentary debate on Palestine. He also stressed the need for a British representative in Israel.

Answering the second point first, Bevin said that the question of recognition was "not an easy one" and that the government had to arrive at a decision on the basis of U.N. actions. "With regard to scuttling," replied the Foreign Secretary, "I think Churchill knows that I am too fat to scuttle from anywhere."

Barnett Janner, Labor M.P., asked that "no steps of a unilateral nature" be taken pending the Commons debate next week and that no more troops be committed in any action which appears to be aimed at Israel. To this Bevin stated: "The case will never, I repeat never, be settled unless by agreement between the two parties. Force by either side will not finally settle it. There will be no need to move troops at all if both sides keep the truce, and I shall be against either side which breaks it."

BRITAIN REPORTED TO HAVE DECIDED TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL; COMMUNICATES WITH DOMINIONS

LONDON, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The British Cabinet has decided to recognize Israel immediately after the Israeli elections are held next week, it was learned here today. The decision was taken at a stormy meeting of the Cabinet yesterday.

Opponents of Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, at that meeting, pressed for the release of the 11,000 Jewish displaced persons detained on Cyprus and for immediate recognition of Israel. However, they agreed to hold up recognition a week to enable the Dominions to be informed of the forthcoming recognition.

ISRAEL REJECTS BRITISH PROTEST ON DOWNING OF FIVE R.A.F. PLANES OVER ISRAELI TERRITORY

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18. (JTA) --- The Israeli Government today rejected the British protest against the shooting down of five R.A.F. planes over Israeli positions on Jan. 7. The Israeli reply was routed via U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie because there are no formal diplomatic relations between the Jewish state and the British Government.

The note, which termed the British reconnaissance flight over the border region "illegitimate and ill considered," placed all responsibility for the incident on Britain. Denying British claims that the planes were downed over Egyptian territory, the note said that supporting evidence of the Jewish contention that the planes were over Israeli territory is to be found in the statements of two British pilots who parachuted out of their planes and were captured by the Israelis, and in the location of one of the downed planes--it crashed in flames near Nirim, a Jewish settlement in the Negev.

The lengthy Israeli statement regretted that the Israeli Government was not able to accept as accurate the statement issued by the United Kingdom Government on the matter, and noted a British statement saying the planes were engaged in reconnaissance to ascertain the depth of the Israeli incursion into Egypt while a second flight was dispatched to obtain information regarding the planes missing from the first flight.

Even if the British statement is correct, the Israeli note said, the dispatch of British aircraft in collaboration with Egyptian forces to obtain information on Israeli positions constituted a grave breach of neutrality and warranted military counter-action against aircraft engaged in such a reconnaissance mission.

The claims contained in the British statement, the Tel Aviv note went on, were disproved however, by the evidence of both downed pilots who admitted that they loaded guns on their craft and photographed positions over Israeli territory. The unannounced flight took place from the direction of enemy lines when Israeli positions were being attacked from the air, the note pointed out, and therefore the British planes were unavoidably regarded as enemy aircraft and became the target of defensive fire from Israeli ground forces. The second flight, whose planes were loaded with bombs, came as a battle formation and air combat occurred ten kilometers inside Israel.

"The Provisional Government of Israel regrets any encounter which took place between the Israeli and the Royal Air Forces," the note said. "The government regrets that a British pilot lost his life, but considers that responsibility lies with those who ordered the operation which, in the light of the evidence cited, cannot be regarded as illegitimate and ill-considered."

DRAFT OF ARMISTICE PACT SUBMITTED BY U.N. MEDIATOR TO ISRAEL AND EGYPT AT RHODES TALKS

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The text of a draft armistice prepared by U.N. mediator Dr. Ralph Bunche and his staff was presented at Rhodes today to the Israeli and Egyptian delegations with a view to receiving their observations, it was reported here from U.N. headquarters in Rhodes.

Dr. Bunche was busy discussing the draft this afternoon with the heads of the two delegations whom he saw alternatively. Informal talks at which suggestions and counter-suggestions will be offered are to take place tomorrow, after which there will be a plenary meeting on Thursday. The holding of such a meeting is taken to indicate that the signing of an armistice between Israel and Egypt is only a matter of several more days.

The president of the Security Council was informed last night by Dr. Bunche that he expects the armistice negotiations between Egypt and Israel to be concluded within a few days. Dr. Bunche also reported that he has taken steps to initiate armistice negotiations between Israel and the other Arab states.

Drawing the attention of the Security Council to the fact that the U.N. Palestine Conciliation Commission held its first meeting yesterday in Geneva, Dr. Bunche urged that the office of the mediator should be terminated in accordance with the resolution of the Security Council which provides that the functions now assigned to the mediator and to the Consular Truce Commission on Palestine be transferred to the Conciliation Commission.

"It is obviously desirable that the functions and responsibility of the United Nations in its efforts to achieve a peaceful adjustment of the Palestine situation should be centralized in one organ to the greatest extent possible," Dr. Bunche said in his cable from Rhodes. "There are obvious disadvantages from a multiplicity of United Nations agencies or representatives working simultaneously on various aspects of the problem."

Information received here from the U.N. headquarters in Rhodes indicated that Dr. Bunche was optimistic about the possibilities for an agreement between Israel and Egypt on all questions under discussion. A usually reliable source here said today that an armistice between Israel and Lebanon would be announced within the next few days.

PALESTINE TRUCE COMMISSION MEETS IN JERUSALEM; PREPARES FOR ARRIVAL OF CONCILIATION BODY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The Consular Truce Commission met here yesterday in a routine session. Although the exact nature of the meeting is not known, it is believed that the members discussed the problem of obtaining housing and other facilities for the members of the U.N. Palestine Conciliation Commission who are due to open their headquarters here next week.

Jean Nieuwenhuys, chairman of the Truce Commission, refused to comment today on a suggestion by acting mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche to the Security Council that it abandon all mediation and truce services of his office and that of the truce commission and turn over all authority and responsibility to the new Conciliation Commission. Nieuwenhuys said that he had no information concerning Dr. Bunche's suggestion.

BRITISH ENVOY CONFERS WITH SECRETARY LOVETT ON PALESTINE; ENCOURAGED BY RHODES TALKS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- British Ambassador Sir Oliver Franks conferred for an hour this morning with Acting Secretary of State Robert A. Lovett on Palestine. He told newsmen after his call that they had "continued" their discussions about the Palestine area and "noted with encouragement the progress which is being made at Rhodes." He added: "I personally have some feeling of optimism."

POLISH JEWISH LEADER CONFERS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON MIGRATION TO ISRAEL

WARSAW, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The question of emigration of Jews from Poland to Israel was discussed by Dr. Adolf Berman, chairman of the Central Committee of Jews in Poland and leader of the Mapam Party in this country, in a series of conferences held here with several important officials of the Polish Government.

Dr. Berman was informed that the continuation of Jewish emigration from Poland to Israel is now being discussed by the proper Polish authorities. In the last few weeks, only a small number of emigration permits were issued and, as of the first of this year, the issuance of passports is now being handled by district administrative authorities, rather than by the Foreign Ministry.

The government officials also assured Dr. Berman that Zionist organizations in this country will not in any way be interfered with, contrary to rumors, circulating here after the closing down of the local Jewish Agency office, that Zionist groups would be banned in Poland.

Dr. L. Grinstein, Israeli commercial attache in this country, left yesterday for Tel Aviv to report to Israeli Government officials on the new Israeli-Polish commercial treaty. Meanwhile, Israel Barzilia, Israeli envoy to Poland, has begun a series of talks with leading Polish Government officials. He has already met with Minister of Navigation Rabatzki, Speaker of the Polish Parliament Kowalski, and will probably be received shortly by Minister of Internal Affairs Modzelvski and Prime Minister Cyrankievitch.

REPRESENTATIVES OF 80 JEWISH GROUPS DEVISE PLAN TO CHECK BRITISH ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Representatives of 80 national Jewish organizations participated in an extraordinary emergency conference here tonight at the Park Central Hotel at which a united program of action was devised "to thwart current British preparations for military intervention in Israel."

The conference, which was called by the American Zionist Emergency Council, was not open to the public. It was addressed by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, and by Aubrey S. Eban, chief Israeli delegate to the United Nations. Eban presented a report on the problems now facing Israel.

FIRST JEWISH IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL FROM CHINA ARRIVE; ADDITIONAL HUNDREDS EXPECTED SOON

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The first Jewish immigrants to reach Israel from China have arrived in the Jewish state, it was announced here today. Additional hundreds of Jews from China are expected to land here soon, the announcement said.

CITIZENSHIP PROVISIONS OF NEW ARGENTINE DRAFT CONSTITUTION EVOKE CONCERN AMONG JEWS

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The provision of the proposed new Argentine constitution which calls for foreigners who reside in Argentina for two years to apply for citizenship or leave the country may lead to grave complications for some foreign Jews in this country, Jewish circles today pointed out.

These circles were concerned with the fact that the proposed constitution does not provide for automatic citizenship, but leaves the matter of granting citizenship to another law, still to be promulgated. In the past, Jews who because of the war could not produce birth certificates were automatically barred from citizenship by federal judges.

If the same situation should prevail after passage of the new constitution, the Jews will conceivably be in a worse predicament. It is feared that in complying with the law and applying for citizenship, Jews without adequate documentary evidence of their birth will be left in a legal limbo and may run into a myriad of difficulties.

Jewish circles here also point out that the draft constitution makes no provision for declaring racial persecution a high crime, as was promised by the pro-Peronist Organizacion Israelita Argentina. The pro-Peronist group explains this by stating that the present draft of the charter is not "definitive." However, it is pointed out that under the general clause which orders the outlawing of anti-democratic groups, the anti-Semitic pro-fascist Alianza Libertadora Nacionalista is expected to be dissolved.

DISPLACED JEWS IN ITALY ABANDON THEIR OBJECTIONS TO I.R.O. PHOTOGRAPH REGULATIONS

ROME, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The International Refugee Organization authorities have recently renewed their request that Jewish DP's in Italy supply two photographs for identification purposes and the Jews, unlike a year ago, have agreed to the request, it was learned here today.

The I.R.O. this time pointed out that it required two photos so that one could be used on an identity card and the second could be kept in the I.R.O. files for future reference. When the I.R.O. officials said that the second photograph might be used to justify Joint Distribution Committee claims on the I.R.O. for transportation expenses of displaced Jews to Israel, the DP's agreed to the procedure.

A year ago, the DP's refused to accede to the double photograph requirement, pointing out that the second photograph might be used by British intelligence to identify the port of embarkation of an intercepted visaless immigrant. At the time, the British were returning to the port of embarkation all apprehended refugee immigrants whose sailing point could be discovered.

I.R.O. DIRECTOR REPORTED FAVORING TRANSPORTATION AID TO ISRAEL-BOUND DP'S

GENEVA, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The I.R.O. should provide transportation services to displaced Jews going to Israel for settlement, I.R.O. director-general William H. Tuck believes, a representative of the World Jewish Congress revealed here today after a conference with Tuck.

The W.J.C. representative stated that the director-general estimates that some 50,000 DP's will receive some I.R.O. service in 1949 if service is resumed for Israel-bound refugees. A final decision is expected January 25 when the I.R.O. board is scheduled to meet.

