

Friday, January 21, 1949

JTA Daily News Bulletin

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

ARMISTICE AGREEMENT REPORTED REACHED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND LEBANON; FOREIGN MINISTRY MUM

LONDON, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Quoting Israeli military sources, Reuters today reported that an armistice agreement was reached yesterday between Israeli and Lebanese representatives in Nahariya.

The Reuters dispatch added that the convention must still be ratified by both governments. It also said that the agreement would put an end to all fighting between the two states and would provide for a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory and the return to the Arab state's control of eleven villages which were overrun by Jewish troops last year.

(In Tel Aviv the Israeli Foreign Ministry maintained an official silence today on the reported negotiations in Nahariya between Israeli and Lebanese delegates.)

BRITISH CABINET MEETS AGAIN ON PALESTINE ISSUE; DISCUSSES RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

LONDON, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The British Cabinet met here today on the question of recognition of Israel. The evening press reported that Foreign Secretary Bevin is ready to grant de facto recognition to the Jewish state if the Israeli-Egyptian armistice talks at Rhodes conclude successfully.

British de jure recognition will be granted to Israel only after the frontiers between the Jewish state and the neighboring Arab countries are defined and peace is formally concluded, the press predicted. Following the granting of de jure recognition, Britain will enter into a treaty with Israel which, together with separate alliances with the Arab states, is expected to provide a basis for a future security system in the Middle East, it is reported.

The Foreign Office today revealed that it has been kept informed by the French Government with regard to Franco's intention of granting de facto recognition to Israel. "The British and the French Governments have been in touch for a long period over this subject," the Foreign Office spokesman said.

The Arab Office here today asked the British Government to lift its embargo on the shipment of arms to the Arab states in the light of the decision to release the detained Jews on Cyprus. "There is not the slightest doubt that the entry of the Cyprus Jews to Israel will constitute an increase in the military strength of the Jewish armed forces," the statement said.

ISRAEL WILL BE ADMITTED TO UNITED NATIONS IN APRIL, CHIEF U.S. DELEGATE PREDICTS

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations Warren Austin today confidently predicted that Israel will be admitted to membership in the world organization in the second part of the General Assembly, which convenes April 5 at Flushing Meadow. Austin made the statement at a press conference, following many weeks of absence from his post due to illness.

SHERTOK REPORTS TO STATE COUNCIL ON ISRAELI TALKS WITH EGYPT, LEBANON AND TRANSJORDAN

TEL AVIV, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- A report on the Israeli-Egyptian armistice negotiations now taking place at Rhodes was made today by Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok to a meeting of the State Council. The negotiations, he said, have reached a stage where certain points have been agreed upon by both sides, while others are still outstanding.

The Israeli Foreign Minister informed the members of the Council that acting U.N. mediator Dr. Ralph Bunche requested Israel not to make public any of the points on which agreement has already been reached. He emphasized that Israel welcomes the change in policy of the Egyptian Government which led to Egyptian participation in the Rhodes negotiations and in direct talks with Israeli representatives.

"It is still too early to assume that the Egyptian armistice negotiations will mean final peace after they conclude," Shertok warned. He said that the agreement reached on certain points between the Israeli and Egyptian delegations is valueless until all points under discussion are settled and approved.

Shertok also revealed that negotiations have been started with Lebanon. They have not as yet reached any practical stage of armistice talks, he said. He also announced that the contact between Israel and Transjordan continues without any interruption. However, this contact cannot yet be considered as armistice negotiations, he added.

"Transjordan," the Israeli Foreign Minister said, "had no reason during this contact to invoke its treaty with Britain and to call British troops to Aqaba. Such a request to Britain does not tally with the facts of the situation. We see in the landing of British troops in Aqaba an action threatening Israeli territory. We are on guard and are maintaining contact with the members of the Security Council with regard to this matter."

Commenting on the British decision to release the Jewish refugees on Cyprus and to permit their emigration from the island to Israel, Shertok stated: "This decision terminated the epoch of tragedy and misery for the Jews on Cyprus. However, we still do not know whether this constitutes a change in British policy, or the concession on the part of the British Government to the opposition in order to prevent further action on the part of the leaders of the opposition."

ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON ARMISTICE MAY CONCLUDE THIS WEEK-END, REPORT SAYS

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The Israeli and Egyptian delegations at Rhodes are moving speedily toward reaching an agreement on armistice lines, it was learned here today on the basis of reports received from U.N. headquarters on the Greek island. One report said the Rhodes talks might conclude this week-end.

The reports indicated that Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, acting U.N. Palestine mediator, has succeeded in establishing a "working basis of agreement" between the Egyptian and Israeli delegates. Each of the negotiating parties is inclined to agree that, as far as possible, the armistice lines should be straight and short, the report said.

Dr. Bunche received last night a British communication on the Cabinet's decision to free the Jewish detainees on Cyprus and permit their proceeding to Israel. He transmitted this communication to the Jewish representatives with a brief note stating: "I presume the following is intended for the Provisional Government of Israel." The communication was addressed to the "Jewish authorities in Palestine."

ISRAELI IMMIGRATION MINISTER TO GO TO CYPRUS TO ARRANGE TRANSFER OF VISALESS JEWS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Israeli Immigration Minister Moshe Shapira will leave for Cyprus early next week to make and supervise arrangements for the early transfer of some 12,000 interned Jewish refugees from the island to Israel, it was announced here today in a special broadcast on Kol Israel, the government radio.

From Famagusta, Cyprus port, it was reported today that Rabbi I. Schreibaum, Jewish Agency representative on the island, stated that he hoped that a 4,500-ton vessel would arrive today from Haifa to take on the first 2,000 refugees. He said it would be possible to transport the first group to Haifa tomorrow and clear the camps completely within ten days or two weeks.

The Agency revealed here that it has allocated its most luxurious ships to bring 1,200 Cyprus Jews to Israel on each trip. The first such voyage will probably be made early next week, the Agency said, adding that it has made arrangements with the Red Mogen Dovid to have three physicians--including a gynecologist--three nurses and all necessary medical equipment go to Cyprus on the first available vessel to accompany the detainees back to Israel. It was revealed here that the 11,000 Cyprus Jews include 800 infants and 275 pregnant women.

U.N.-ESCORTED CONVOY REACHES FALUJA; BEGINS EVACUATING SICK AND WOUNDED EGYPTIANS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- An Egyptian medical convoy under U.N. auspices today reached Faluja after a six-hour trip from Gaza and immediately began evacuating Egyptian wounded and sick soldiers, it was announced here.

The convoy, consisting of two trucks and 20 ambulances, was searched thoroughly by U.N. and Israeli officers before it was permitted to pass through the Israeli lines. Each vehicle carried a U.N. driver and a U.N. observer. The chief reason for the lengthy duration of the journey was the bad state of the roads. Food and medical supplies were brought into Faluja by the trucks.

It is estimated that a total of about 250 Egyptians will be removed from the Faluja trap. They will leave with full military honors, carrying their side arms. The troops to be evacuated will be chosen by members of a U.N. medical team which arrived with the convoy.

A relief convoy was today scheduled to leave the Jewish lines in Jerusalem and proceed through no-man's land and the Arab positions to Mt. Scopus with supplies and personnel for the police unit at the Hadassah Hospital and the Hebrew University and with a group of administrative personnel for the two institutions. Yesterday a special truck was passed through the lines to obtain a number of books from the University's library for use at the temporary headquarters of Israel's leading educational institution.

Three members of the U.N. Secretariat yesterday arrived in Jerusalem to arrange for office space and living quarters for the members of the U.N. Conciliation Commission and its staff. They inspected both the former British Government House and the King David Hotel's facilities and it is expected that they will recommend the latter.

JERUSALEM EXECUTIVE OF JEWISH AGENCY DECIDES TO HOLD PLENARY SESSION IN NEW YORK

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The executive of the Jewish Agency here decided to have all its members fly to the United States within ten days in order to hold a plenary session of the Agency's executive in New York instead of in Jerusalem as originally scheduled. It is understood that the decision to change the meeting place from Jerusalem to New York was taken primarily in connection with present developments in the United Jewish Appeal.

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL DRIVE FOR 1949 WILL START IN MANY CITIES DURING WEEK-END

NEW YORK, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The 1949 United Jewish Appeal campaign for \$250,000,000 will get under way this week-end in many large and small cities across the country, it was announced today by U.J.A. national chairmen William Rosenwald, Herman L. Weisman and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise.

At a series of meetings of the national chairmen and key officials of the United Jewish Appeal, plans were worked out for implementing the decisions of the U.J.A. national conference. Among the large communities where campaigns on behalf of the 1949 U.J.A. are being launched within the next few days are Pittsburgh, Miami, Newark and Phoenix. Dozens of smaller cities are also preparing to open their drives during the coming week or ten days.

In their statement announcing the opening of the U.J.A. campaigns, Rosenwald and Weisman and Rabbi Wise pointed out that the decision of the Export-Import Bank to grant a \$100,000,000 loan to Israel, "although gratifying in view of the great needs in Israel, does not reduce by one iota the necessity to raise \$250,000,000 for the United Jewish Appeal in 1949." They stressed that none of the vital programs that are supported by U.J.A. funds can receive any part of the \$100,000,000 loan.

They cited the fact that the Export-Import Bank loans are made for specific projects that build up the economic potential of the borrowing country, and that loan funds will not be used to transport immigrants to Israel or resettle them there. They also cited a statement by Dr. Oscar Gass, economic advisor to the Israeli Government, that "contributions of world Jewry" must provide a large part of an \$800,000,000 immigration, settlement and economic development program envisaged by the Israeli Government.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE OPENS THREE-DAY ANNUAL MEETING TODAY; GREETED BY TRUMAN

NEW YORK, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- The 42nd annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee will open here tomorrow to discuss a new statement of views concerning the organization's attitude toward Israel, human rights, combatting anti-Semitism and other problems affecting Jewish life in this country and abroad. Approximately 750 Jewish community leaders from all parts of the country will attend the gathering which is scheduled to continue for three days.

President Truman, in a message addressed to Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the Committee, emphasized that he is "well aware of the high objectives" of the organization in the field of individual freedom and human relations. He stressed the fact that the efforts which the A.J.C. is making "to bring about greater understanding among the groups with different racial and religious backgrounds" are of "deep continuing interest" to him.

The Committee also received messages lauding its activities from several members of the Cabinet. Sen. Robert A. Taft, in his message, voiced the hope that the U.S. Government would soon grant de jure recognition to Israel. Benjamin V. Cohen, American delegate to the United Nations, will be one of the principal speakers at the meeting.

AMERICAN ZIONISTS EXPRESS "PROFOUND GRATITUDE" TO TRUMAN FOR U.S. LOAN TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency and of the American Zionist Emergency Council, today sent a wire to President Truman expressing the "profound gratitude" of the Zionist movement in this country to him for the action of the Export-Import Bank in granting a loan to Israel. The Council represents all official Zionist bodies in the United States.

INAUGURATION OF NEW NATIONS WILL AID U.N., TRUMAN SAYS; ISRAELI FLAG FLIES AT INAUGURAL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- "We believe that the United Nations will be strengthened by the new nations which are being formed in lands now advancing toward self-government under democratic principles," President Truman said today in his inaugural address on foreign policy. Rabbi Samuel Thaumond, of St. Louis, an old friend of the President, was one of three clergymen who offered the traditional inaugural prayers.

"We believe that all men have a right to equal justice under law and equal opportunity to share in the common good," the President said. "We believe that all men have the right to freedom of thought and expression. We believe that all men are created equal because they are created in the image of God."

For the first time in history, the Israeli flag flew today alongside flags of other nations along the route of President Truman's inaugural parade. Israeli Special Representative to the United States, Eliahu Epstein and Mrs. Epstein, participated in all the social functions surrounding the inauguration.

The Israeli flag flew next to the speaker's platform, located in front of the White House and within range of the television cameras. The White House also extended an inaugural invitation to Col. Ben Arzi, military attache at the Israeli mission, it was learned.

NONE OF U.S. CREDIT TO ISRAEL WILL BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, OFFICIAL SAYS

WASHINGTON Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Dr. Oscar Gass, economic advisor to the Israeli Government, who has represented the Israeli Ministry of Finance in negotiations with the Export-Import Bank, told a press conference here today that none of the credit extended by the Bank to Israel would be used for military purposes nor for projects such as the rehabilitation and absorption of immigrants or orphaned refugees.

Funds from the \$100,000,000 Export-Import Bank loan announced here last night, Dr. Gass stated, will be used exclusively for investment outlays. He added that none of the contemplated agricultural projects for which the Bank funds will be used are situated in disputed Palestine territory.

Dr. Gass said that the agricultural projects for which the funds were granted by the Bank include expansion of existing farming programs--particularly citrus culture--and development of new agricultural programs. Most of the contemplated agricultural projects lie along the coastal plain between Haifa and Rehovoth.

New irrigation projects will be undertaken only in areas in which water is available from local sources, such as in the north near the Jordan River's sources, in the Esdraelon Valley region and in the central and southern coastal plains.

REFUSALS TO LIBERALIZE DP LAW WILL GET PRIORITY IN HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20. (JTA) -- Rep. Emanuel Celler, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, announced today that measures to liberalize the present displaced persons law would be first on the list of his committee's business.

Celler also revealed that Rep. Francis E. Walter, Pennsylvania Democrat and author of a bill to amend the existing DP law, will become chairman of the immigration subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee.

