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RHODES ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE RECESSED OR POSTPONED; BUNCHE'S OPTIMISM FADES

RHODES, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- The armistice negotiations now under way here between the Governments of Israel and Egypt may be postponed or recessed within the coming week, it was learned here over the week-end, following a statement last night by acting Palestine mediator Ralph J. Bunche that he was less optimistic about the outcome of the talks than he had been earlier in the week.

The negotiations, it was reported, have bogged down and during the past five days there has been little, if any, actual progress. Originally, the Israeli delegation demanded the withdrawal of all the Egyptian forces from Palestine, while the Egyptians in turn insisted on the withdrawal of Israeli forces to the October 14 lines. Later, the Israeli delegation indicated that it might be willing to discuss the possibility of recognition of Egyptian sovereignty over the coastal strip between Gaza and Rafah, and including both towns.

This strip is now held by Egyptian forces, but is militarily dominated by Israeli troops. As such, the strip could serve as a bargaining point, but the discussion has never reached this point. The Egyptian delegation insisted on its original demand being accepted before it would discuss any other factors.

(Meanwhile, rumors of an early evacuation of the Egyptian brigade trapped at Faluja was denied in Tel Aviv today. An Israeli government spokesman declared that the Faluja garrison will not be released until an armistice is signed.)

ISRAELI ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE TOMORROW; BRITISH SOLDIERS BEAT CYPRUS INTERNEES

TEL AVIV, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Excitement is spreading throughout the country as election day--Tuesday--approaches. Final preparations are being made now for the nation-wide balloting which will be held from 6 A.M. to 11 P.M. It is considered likely that Tuesday will be proclaimed a national holiday.

In Jerusalem Pablo Azcarate, first secretary of the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission, today visited Bernard Joseph, Israeli military governor, to discuss arrangements for the cooperation of the Israeli authorities with the Commission and to make provision for security measures for its members. During his visit the first major shooting in the last two months broke out. It is not expected to lead to further incidents and Azcarate is reported to be planning to complain about the firing when he visits the commander of the Arab Legion in the Old City. An air raid alert was sounded in the city at 2:30 A.M. yesterday when a lone plane circled the city, but dropped no bombs.

A report from Cyprus tonight stated that British military guards at one of the camps for Jewish internees had beaten up a group of escaped prisoners who were attempting to re-enter the camp so that they could be taken to Israel together with the other detainees. One Jew has been hospitalized, while other members of the party claimed that they were robbed of personal property by the soldiers.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE ADOPTS POLICY ON ISRAEL; BLAUSTEIN IS ELECTED PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- A Statement of Views outlining the attitude of the American Jewish Committee toward the state of Israel as well as toward internal American problems concerning Jews, was adopted here today at the closing session of the three-day annual meeting of the organization. Jacob Blaustein was unanimously elected president of the Committee, succeeding Judge Joseph M. Proskauer.

The Statement of Views, prepared by a special committee under the chairmanship of Alan M. Stroeck and sponsored by Proskauer and Blaustein, lauds the U.S. Government for granting recognition to Israel, hails President Truman's stand on civil rights in this country, and praises the United Nations for its adoption of the Declaration of Human Rights. Constituting a revision of the Committee's basic policy adopted in 1943, the Statement reads:

"We of the American Jewish Committee are associated under the mandate of our Charter, adopted in 1906, to prevent the infraction of the civil and religious rights of Jews in any part of the world and to secure equality of economic, social and educational opportunity. We join with all other Americans, of whatever creed or color, who devote themselves to the continued fight against those who through bigotry and prejudice endeavor to imperil the rights of any group in this land and thus divide our country and undermine the foundations of American liberty.

"We join with men of good will everywhere in the effort to obtain for all mankind the essential human rights, as set out in America's basic documents of freedom. We hail the historic Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights and the Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. We call upon our own nation and the nations of the world to protect and enforce these rights by every appropriate means, domestic and international. We urge upon our own and all other countries the adoption of liberal, just and non-discriminatory immigration laws.

Will Aid Upbuilding of Israel Within Framework of American Interests

"United with our brethren of all faiths in the bond of American citizenship, we cherish the ideals and traditions of America and dedicate ourselves to the common effort to develop and enrich its cultural and political life. We reaffirm our devotion to our religion and pledge ourselves to maintain and perpetuate the vitality of our spiritual heritage, which has constituted and will continue to constitute a basic contribution to the development of civilization and democracy.

"We hold the establishment of the State of Israel to be an event of historic significance. We applaud its recognition by our own and other governments. We look forward to Israel's assumption of its full place among the family of nations as a government guaranteeing complete equality to all its inhabitants, without regard to race, creed or national origin, and as an advocate of liberty and peace in the Near East and throughout the world. Citizens of the United States are Americans and citizens of Israel are Israelis; this we affirm with all its implications; and just as our own government speaks only for its citizens, so Israel speaks only for its citizens. Within the framework of American interests, we shall aid in the upbuilding of Israel as a vital spiritual and cultural center and in the development of its capacity to provide a free and dignified life for those who wish to make it their home.

"In these critical times, when totalitarian forces and ideas again threaten the liberties of the world, we re-dedicate ourselves to the struggle for the maintenance and advancement of individual dignity and freedom," the statement concludes.

Blaustein, after his election, pledged his "devotion and consecration to the tremendous task" of furthering the American Jewish Committee's work in defense of Jews and for human rights in the United States and abroad. "We have been, and are, passing through the most momentous period in all the world and in the whole history of our

people. Much has been done, but there is still considerable unfinished business," he said. He paid particular tribute to Judge Proskauer, who served as president of the organization for six years.

In a report on activities in 1948, delivered later in the day, Blaustein traced the contributions made by the American Jewish Committee in the successful effort to further U.N. adoption of genocide and human rights measures, both through cooperation with U.N. organs and through educational efforts in the United States.

Recalling the Committee's efforts in support of Jewish aspirations and the expansion of democracy in Palestine and the Near East, Blaustein pointed up the support which the Committee had given to the establishment of Israel, including requests to the American government "to help effectuate partition; to support an adequate territorial settlement that would make possible the immigration, settlement and rehabilitation of a large number of Jews in Israel; and urged speedy action to grant the new State de jure recognition, appropriate reinforcement of its economy, and active support for its admission to the United Nations."

Urging that a spirit of fraternity be developed between Jews and persons of other faiths in this country, Judge Proskauer declared: "It still remains for us to do all that lies in us to make effective the guarantees of our own Bill of Rights and of the Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations. It still remains for us to combat bigotry and intolerance in all their manifestations and to conform the American way of life to the American philosophy of equality and brotherhood, not only in the political scene but in the economic and social phases of our everyday existence."

Dr. John Slawson, executive director of the A.J.C., addressing the concluding session, said: "There is no doubt that social anti-Semitism in this country today is prevalent on a vast scale. However, the emergency type of treatment required in former years to take care of rabble rousers and untoward incidents is required in decreasing frequency. We can now, in increasing measure, direct our efforts toward a preventive approach by dealing with the basic aspects of the problem."

Irving M. Engel was elected chairman of the executive committee, while Victor S. Riesenfeld was named chairman of the administrative committee. Gov. Herbert H. Lehman and Samuel D. Leidesdorf were re-elected honorary vice-presidents, and Dr. Slawson was re-elected executive vice-president. Nathan M. Ohrbach of New York was named vice-president, as were Herbert B. Ehrmann, Boston; Milton W. King, Washington; Fred Lazarus, Jr., Cincinnati; Ralph E. Samuel, New York; David Sher, New York; Jesse H. Steinbart, San Francisco; Stroock; and Frank L. Sulzberger, Chicago. Edward A. Norman was re-elected secretary. Albert H. Lieberman of Philadelphia, was chosen as treasurer, and Gustave M. Berne, associate treasurer. Sixteen new members were elected to the executive committee.

NEW EXECUTIVE NAMES BODY TO STUDY RELATION OF ZIONISM TO WORLD JEWRY, ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- The national executive committee of the Zionist Organization of America, at an all-day session today, established a special committee "to study the future program and constitution of the World Zionist Organization" and the "relationship of Zionism to the world Jewish community as a whole and to the Government and people of Israel." Judge Simon H. Rifkind, former Jewish advisor to the American Army command in Europe, was named to head the committee.

Charged with the task of clarifying the future trend and direction of the world Zionist movement, the Commission will present its proposals to the next World Zionist Congress, which is scheduled to be held in Israel late next summer. Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, who presided, declared that it will be "non-partisan and non-factional in its approach" and will make "its explorations and recommendations on a two-fold basis: Zionism as a means of helping the people of Israel, and Zionism as a constructive force in Jewish life outside of Israel."

MORGENTHAU NAMED PALESTINE ECONOMIC CORPORATION BOARD CHAIRMAN; MONTOR IS VICE-PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- The election of Henry Morgenthau, Jr., former Secretary of the Treasury and one-time general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, as chairman of the board of the Palestine Economic Corporation was announced here late today. The announcement also stated that Henry Montor, former executive vice-chairman of the U.J.A., had been named vice-president of the P.E.C.

"The State of Israel is now embarking upon a program of development," Morgenthau said, "that will require hundreds of millions of dollars of capital investment, in addition to the generous support that American Jewry is sure to give its philanthropic institutions. The Palestine Economic Corporation is showing its concern for the future of Israel by embarking upon an investment program of unprecedented proportions. We feel that American capital, provided by small and large investors alike, will soon become aware of the great opportunities in that fast-growing country. Proper economic development will assure Israel's growth as a strong bulwark of democracy in the Middle East.

"Large donated funds will be indispensable in 1949 for the initial reception, care and rehabilitation of large numbers of immigrants, for land purchase and for the first stages of agricultural development. But private capital is vitally needed for the development of the economic structure of the country that will assure the rapid absorption of the great waves of immigrants from Europe and North Africa," Morgenthau said. He added:

"Israel has every mark of a dynamic economy. Its growth in population currently at the rate of 200,000 a year, is especially noteworthy when it is considered that not only Israel but the Middle East of which it is the nerve center has just begun to grow."

A group of twelve business leaders from various parts of the country was added to the board of directors at the same time, the P.E.C. announcement said. They are: Charles J. Rosenbloom of Pittsburgh; Joseph Mazer of New York; Morris Berinstein of Syracuse; Joseph Shulman of Paterson, N.J.; Harold Goldenberg of Minneapolis; Rudolph G. Sonneborn of New York; Abraham Feinberg of New York; Joel Gross of Newark; Samuel Rothberg and Julian B. Venezky of Peoria, Ill.

COUNCIL OF ORGANIZATIONS OF NEW YORK UNITED JEWISH APPEAL LAUNCHES 1949 CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Delegates representing 5,000 Jewish fraternal and benevolent organizations affiliated with the Council of Organizations of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, today launched their 10th annual effort on behalf of the U.J.A. In recognition of the fact that housing for newly-arrived immigrants will constitute one of the major projects in Israel, the members of the Council resolved to raise maximum amounts for the U.J.A. so that funds for the construction of at least 50,000 family housing units would be assured.

Hailing the U.S. \$100,000,000 loan to Israel, Bartley C. Crum, publisher of the New York Star, who addressed the parley, said: "I hope that the Jewish community of America understands that the \$100,000,000 which was recently granted does not diminish by one penny the obligation and necessity in this great year of 1949 to contribute funds to provide for adequate housing and for the needs of the people of Israel." Other speakers included Justice Benjamin Shalleck, president of the Young Men's Philanthropic League and Max Ogust, executive chairman of the Council of Organizations who reported that the most pressing need of Jewish immigrants to Israel is adequate housing.

The delegates also launched, through the Yiddish newspapers of New York City, their traditional campaign to provide matzoth and other Passover foods for needy Jewry throughout the world.

GROUP OF AMERICAN EXPERTS TO GO TO ISRAEL TO SURVEY HOUSING PROBLEM AND MAP PROGRAM

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- A survey committee, headed by Philip M. Klutznick, former National Housing Commissioner, has been formed to go to Israel at the request of the Provisional Government of the state of Israel, it was announced here over the week-end by Julius Simon, president of the Palestine Economic Corporation.

Simon said that he had acted on behalf of Mordecai Ben Tov, Israeli Minister of Labor and Reconstruction. The group plans to leave in March for Israel where they will study the problem, aid in mapping a housing program and then return to the U.S. to encourage American participation in it.

NINE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED IN ISRAEL THIS MONTH, UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL ANNOUNCES

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Nine Jewish settlements have been founded in Israel during the first week of January as part of the over-all objective of establishing fifty-one settlements during the first six months of 1949 with the aid of funds raised by Jews in the U.S., it was announced this week-end by Herman L. Weisman, acting national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, on the basis of a cable received from Israel.

Seven of the agricultural colonies are located in Western Galilee and two are in the Negev, Israel's southern desert area. One of the new agricultural colonies was founded by members of Beth Ha'aravh, a group of young pioneers who, ten years ago, embarked on an experiment of cultivating the salt-laden soil at the northern tip of the Dead Sea. During the recent conflict they were surrounded by the enemy and rather than let their settlement fall into hostile hands, they destroyed it and were evacuated by Israeli planes. The members of this group, consisting of 120 families, are being resettled in Upper Galilee on 400 acres of fertile soil, with an abundant supply of water.

5,900 JEWS LEFT RUMANIA AND BULGARIA FOR ISRAEL IN SINGLE DAY, J.D.C. OFFICIAL SAYS

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Jewish emigration from Europe to Israel continued at a rapid pace last week when 5,902 men, women and children left Bulgaria and Rumania in a single day for Israel, it was reported this week-end by Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee.

Leavitt reported that the Israel-bound immigrants left last Wednesday aboard two vessels--the S.S. Bulgaria, which left Varna, Bulgaria, with 4,592 refugees, and the S.S. Galliah, which sailed from Constanza, Rumania, with 1,310.

"With nearly 6,000 persons sailing for Israel in one day, the total number of JDC-assisted immigrants to enter the Holy Land this month is expected to total more than 18,000," the J.D.C. official added. At the same time, he released the text of a cable received from the Central Committee of Jewish Refugees in Cyprus thanking the J.D.C. for relief and welfare assistance it has provided since the Cyprus internment camps were opened in August, 1946.

S.O.S. COLLECTION OF J.D.C. SHIPPED OVER 11,000,000 POUNDS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES ABROAD

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- More than 11,008,000 pounds of canned foods, clothing and other relief supplies were donated to the S.O.S. Collection of the Joint Distribution Committee during 1948, it was announced today by Albert M. Kahn and Mrs. Isaac Gilman, S.O.S. national co-chairmen.

These relief-in-kind contributions, which were donated in S.O.S. campaigns held in more than one thousand cities throughout the United States, constituted 15 percent of the supplies shipped to needy Jews in Europe and North Africa by the J.D.C. Gifts to S.O.S. in 1948, it was stated, exceeded 1947 contributions of 9,140,000 pounds by 20 percent and more than doubled those of 1946--5,134,000 pounds.

