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LAST MINUTE NEWS

ISRAEL AND EGYPT SIGN CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT; ARE STALEMATED ON ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- Acting mediator Ralph J. Bunche notified the United Nations today that a formal cease-fire agreement was concluded at Rhodes between the Egyptian and Israeli delegations before they returned to their respective capitals for government consultations on the stalemated armistice negotiations. (See page 3 for additional information.)

The agreement confirms a previous decision that a general cease-fire should go into effect on all fronts and describes the new accord as "a complete and enduring cease-fire between all elements of our military or para-military forces on land, sea and in the air wherever located."

The agreement laid down the principle that no element of Israel's or Egypt's ground or air forces shall advance beyond the present battle lines and bars naval forces from entering into waters off the coastline now held by the other party. Both sides agreed to facilitate complete supervision of the truce by U.N. observers. The agreement, concluded yesterday, was signed for Israel by Walter Eytan, of the Foreign Ministry, and Col. Yigal Yadin, Army Chief of Operations.

Dr. Bunche admitted that "severe divergencies in viewpoint have been encountered during the past few days." The negotiations are continuing, however, and it is still hoped that agreement can be reached, he reported.

State Dept. Urged to Intervene Against Disruption of Israeli-Egyptian Talks

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- Senator Herbert R. O'Connor of Maryland, in a speech to the Senate today urged the State Department to do everything in its power to prevent the intervention of any country in the Palestine peace talks now going on at Rhodes.

"Our country should, at this moment, use every means at its command to convince the world that amicable adjustments of difficulties should be encouraged and not thwarted," he said. He emphasized that in view of the truce thus far achieved in that area "it would seem a most unfortunate moment for any action which would tend to disrupt the current conference."

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106 EAST 41ST STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
 ELECTION DAY PASSES QUIETLY IN ISRAEL; FINAL RESULTS NOT EXPECTED BEFORE END OF WEEK

TEL AVIV, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- In brilliant sunshine and in a quiet holiday atmosphere, Jews and Arabs throughout Israel cast their votes today in the first national election since the establishment of the Jewish state.

Final result of the elections will not be known before the end of the week because of the complicated procedure for voting established for members of the armed forces. However, the first results, particularly from small settlements, are expected to be known late tonight.

Long queues of voters lined up from the early morning hours before the thousands of polling stations throughout the country. Order at the polls was maintained in Tel Aviv by civilian guards. Neither police nor military units were near the voting stations.

Premier David Ben Gurion and his wife were among the early voters at a station in northern Tel Aviv. President Dr. Chaim Weizmann, who has been confined to bed for a week, voted at Rehovoth. Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok was unable to vote because he was abroad on the day when the registration census was taken.

In Arab-populated areas, separate lines were formed in front of the polling stations by Arab women. This was the first time in the life of the Arab women that they have been permitted to cast their ballots. For many Arab men, it was also the first time that they were participating in elections. All parties, including the Arab parties, had been enabled to deliver election broadcasts on the official Kol Israel radio.

Orthodox voters recited "Shehecheyonu" when they cast their ballots in the first elections of the Jewish state. By noon more than forty percent of the electorate, including many Arabs, had voted. In Jaffa, Arab propagandists appealed to the Arabs to cast their ballots for the Sternist ticket which lists the Arab leader Abu Gosh as a candidate for the Israeli National Assembly. A large group of Druzes were among the voters in villages near Haifa.

Arabs in Jerusalem Suburb Vote for Ticket Sponsored by Mapai

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- Today's national elections started here at six o'clock in the morning with a Sefardic Jew asking for the privilege of being the first voter. He was granted his request by the election committee at one of the stations.

The elections in Jerusalem passed in a Sabbath-like atmosphere, with all commercial enterprises and offices closed for the day. The most picturesque election scenes were visible at the Arab village of Abu Gosh, near Jerusalem, where the polling station was beflagged and gaily decorated. The entire Arab population of the village assembled in front of the station to cast their votes.

The Arabs in this village voted for the first time in their lives. Their credentials were checked by a committee of five, including two Arab teachers. Most

of the voters in Abu Gosh apparently cast their ballots for the Workers and Progressive Fellahin ticket sponsored by Mapai, although the chief of the village is a Sternist candidate.

Arrival of Members of U.N. Conciliation Group Overshadowed by Elections

The arrival here last night of members of the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission was overshadowed by last-minute election speeches made simultaneously by leading Mapai, Mapam and Mizrahi leaders in halls, movie theatres and other public places. Jerusalem's Jews turned out to hear late pre-election campaigning by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok, Dr. Moshe Sneh, leader of the United Workers Party, and Rabbi Meir Berlin, member of the State Council and top Mizrahi leader.

Claude Deboissanger, French member of the conciliation body, and F. Wilkens and J. Halmerjan, American advisors to the U.N. commission, arrived in Jerusalem last night, while Hysseyid C. Yaltchin, Turkish member of the group, is due here Thursday. The Commission members were met by representatives of the U.N. truce observers at Yalanda airfield in the Arab area and were conducted through the Jewish lines to Government House which will serve as official headquarters. The building will be guarded jointly by ten Israeli and ten Transjordanian troops, under the command of Major Loriaux, of the Belgian Army.

BRITISH CABINET POSTPONES RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL; BEVIN WANTS FIVE-NATION ACTION

LONDON, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin succeeded today in persuading a special Cabinet meeting to delay Britain's de facto recognition of Israel.

Contending that the Brussels pact nations--France, Britain, The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg--should act together, Bevin persuaded the Cabinet to agree to delay further action until after a meeting of the five-nation representatives in London on Thursday.

It is learned that unless the Parliamentary debate tomorrow forces a change, Britain's recognition of Israel will have political strings attached to it and will generally be carried out with little good grace.

ITALY GRANTS DE FACTO RECOGNITION TO ISRAEL; COMMERCIAL TALKS INITIATED IN ROME

ROME, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- Italy has granted de facto recognition to the state of Israel, a Foreign Ministry spokesman announced today to the press. He added that the raising of the Italian consular representative in Tel Aviv to diplomatic rank was imminent. "Commercial negotiations between the two countries are now proceeding in Rome," he revealed.

Israeli Consul-General Aris Oren was informed today by the Italian Foreign Ministry that the Italian Government has instructed its Consul-General in Jerusalem to conduct talks with the Government of Israel in connection with the anticipated official announcement of the Cabinet's decision to extend recognition to the Jewish state.

GREECE APPROVES OPENING OF ISRAELI CONSULATE; JEWISH STATE'S ENVOY TO BE RECEIVED TODAY

ATHENS, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- The Greek Foreign Ministry has authorized the opening of an Israeli consulate here, it was revealed today by Jewish sources. Israeli representative to Greece, Ascher Moissis, will be received tomorrow by the Greek Foreign Minister, it was added.

ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN; EGYPTIANS REFUSE COMPROMISE

RHODES, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- The direct armistice negotiations being held here between Egypt and Israel have definitely broken down. The climax of the negotiations came early today when acting U.N. mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche faced the Egyptian delegation with a strong request that it either indicate some intention to compromise or accept responsibility for the breakdown of the talks.

Although it was announced that informal talks may be resumed on Thursday, cessation of the negotiations is considered inevitable. The Egyptian delegation is unlikely to deviate from its position, held steadily for seven days, and the possibility of any further Israeli concessions is remote.

FIRST 1,500 RELEASED CYPRUS JEWS ARRIVE IN HAIFA; WARSHIPS GIVE THEM ROUSING WELCOME

HAIFA, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- The first transport of 1,469 Jews to leave Cyprus following the decision of the British to release the 11,000 detainees on the Greek Island arrived here today aboard the S.S. Galila.

The Israeli warship, Haganah, went out to meet the vessel while she was still on the high seas. When the Galila entered Israeli territorial waters, the Haganah fired three salvos in honor of the new arrivals. Nearly every ship in Haifa harbor was decorated and beflagged for the occasion and most Israeli naval vessels and small craft steamed out to sea to accompany the Cyprus Jews on the last leg of their journey to Israel.

Bands played on several Israeli ships as the Galila approached the harbor. Numerous non-Israeli freighters joined in the crescendo of greeting and sent up deafening hoots of welcome. A British ship in port hoisted the Union Jack in honor of the immigrants while the flags of many other nations were also raised, joining with Israel's emblem in bidding the Jews welcome. The only ships which did not participate in the celebration were American and French warships and a Turkish freighter.

Thousands of wildly cheering spectators lined the Haifa docks since early morning. When the ship docked, Immigration Minister Moshe Shapiro, senior Government and Jewish Agency officials and high-ranking Army and Police officers boarded the Galila. An estimated 20,000 Jews crowded into the port area and sang Hatikvah as the Cyprus Jews disembarked. Army, Navy and Police units presented arms as the immigrants marched past them. Minister Shapiro took the salute of the armed forces.

In a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, made aboard the Galila, Shapiro declared: "This is a great day for Israel. The day is forgotten when the Yishuv and the immigrants wept together when foreign soldiers forced the refugees coming home to go to Cyprus. Kicked out by foreigners, these same refugees are returning today, welcomed by their own Army, Navy and Air Force, and received by their own government, welcoming them back with 'Bracha' and wishing them 'Yishuv Tov' in Israel."

The immigrants constituted a cross-section of the 52,000 Jewish detainees who have passed through the Cyprus detention camps since 1946. Their embarkation was aided by representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee and the Red Mogen David.

TRIAL OF STERNIST LEADERS CONCLUDES IN ACRE; VERDICT EXPECTED WITHIN 10 DAYS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- Hearings at the trial of the leaders of the Stern Group concluded today at the Israeli military court in Acre with Max Seligman, defense counsel, summing up. A verdict is expected within ten days.

ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE TO URUGUAY RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT; PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS TO HIM

MONTEVIDEO, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- Israeli envoy to Uruguay Jacob Tzur was received here today by President Don Luis Battle Beres and presented his official credentials to him. He was accompanied by Mrs. Judith Bergman, who is in charge of the Israeli Consulate here, and other members of the Israeli mission in this country.

After the audience with the Uruguayan chief of state, Tzur proceeded to the monument of this country's national hero, Artigas, and laid a wreath on the tombstone in the presence of high military and civil officials.

ISRAELI FINANCE MINISTER THANKS JEWS IN POLAND FOR GIFT OF GRAIN TO JEWISH STATE

WARSAW, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- A gift of 200 tons of grain made by the Jewish community in Poland to Israel was acknowledged with thanks today in a letter to the Central Committee of Jews in Poland from Israeli Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan. The grain was purchased with funds collected among Jews throughout Poland and reached the Jewish state on the Polish vessel, S.S. Torun.

(The Polish Government has agreed to transfer to Israel 40,000,000 zlotys collected during the last two years for the Jewish National Fund; it was reported in Tel Aviv today by Dr. L. Gruenstein, Israeli commercial attache in Poland, upon his arrival from Warsaw. The funds will be transferred in the form of exports.)

IMMIGRATION OF 200,000 JEWS TO ISRAEL IN 1949 WILL COST \$200,000,000, EXPERT SAYS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- "The immigration of 200,000 Jews to Israel in 1949 will cost \$200,000,000," David Horowitz, economic advisor to the Israeli Government, reported here today. At the same time he announced that agricultural and industrial machinery imported from abroad will be duty-free.

The Ministry for Trade and Industry has approved the initiation of 79 new industrial projects to cost \$40,000,000 and to employ 10,000 workers, Dr. Fritz Bernstein, Minister for Trade and Industry, announced at a press conference here. Most of the plants will manufacture items which have never been produced in Israel before.

Bernstein also announced that a new industrial center, costing \$60,000,000, will be erected in the Haifa Bay area on some 12,500 acres. The project will be named the Kishon Administration, for the Kishon River which empties into the Mediterranean Sea at Haifa.

EGYPTIAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS HARD LABOR FOR MURDER OF PHILADELPHIA JEW IN CAIRO

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- The State Department received word today that an Egyptian named Bakr Mirsil was sentenced this week to 15 years hard labor for the murder last July of Stephen Haas, a Philadelphia Jew.

Haas and his wife were tourists in Cairo when an angry mob attacked and killed Mr. Haas. Mrs. Haas escaped injury. State Department press officer Michael J. Moravetz said today that he understood Mrs. Haas is thinking of filing a claim against the Egyptian Government. Two other persons on trial with Mirsil were acquitted, Moravetz said.

