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## BEVIN WARNS BRITAIN WILL NOT REMAIN "INDIFFERENT" IF WAR IS RESUMED IN PALESTINE

LONDON, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- If the Palestine war is resumed it will be "impossible" for Britain to remain "indifferent and inactive," Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin warned today during the course of a debate on Palestine in the House of Commons.

At the same time, he declared that British de facto recognition of the Israeli Government will not be announced until Britain receives replies from its Dominions and the Benelux nations with whom it has consulted on the problem. The answers, he said, are expected within a few days.

The Foreign Secretary stated that he understood that President Truman endorses the proposition that if the Jews keep all of Galilee, Jaffa and other areas assigned to the Arabs they must surrender territory elsewhere. He added that following the Israeli incursion into Egyptian territory the President made representations "as emphatic as the action which we took."

Bevin also said that the British planes had the right to fly over Egypt "where the Jewish forces had no right to be." He insisted that Britain has not tried nor done anything to "undo" Israel, which he said is a "fact." Simultaneously, he declared that the British Government will not be deterred "one inch" from its policy of supporting all resolutions of the U.N. Security Council on the Palestine situation.

## Churchill Charges Bevin with Prejudice Against Palestine Jews

Winston Churchill severely criticized Bevin's Palestine policy. He charged Bevin with being prejudiced against the Jews of Palestine and described the emergence of the Jewish state as a significant event in world history. By refusing recognition to Israel, Britain finds herself regarded as the bitterest enemy of the Jewish state, he said.

"There has never been the slightest comprehension of the Palestine problem by the Foreign Secretary, nor will he take any advice," Churchill stated. He recalled that British recognition of Israel was urged six weeks ago.

"The Foreign Secretary," Churchill continued, "was wrong in facts, wrong in methods, and wrong in results. We have lost the friendship of the Palestine Jews for the time being." Churchill emphasized that both the Jews and the Arabs must have access to the Gulf of Aqaba. He urged that a British force remain in Aqaba until the question is decided by the United Nations and the decision is accepted and obeyed by the Jews and the Arabs.

Referring to Bevin's remarks that the Jews had invaded Egypt, Churchill asked whether the Egyptians had not first invaded Palestine. The British policy in Palestine

has made Britain "a mockery and a scapegoat," and deprived Britain of the credit which she earned in relation to Palestine, the former Prime Minister charged.

### Britain and U.S. Agree on Economic Policy for Middle East, Bevin Says

In the course of his speech, Bevin asserted that the United Kingdom was obligated to maintain security and stability in the Middle East. He declared that for a long time Britain and the United States have seen eye to eye on a policy for increasing the economic well-being of the Middle East. Everything will be done to prevent the "Balkanization" of the Middle East and to see that it does not become the scene of internal dissension and rivalry, he stated.

In an attempt to avoid responsibility for the Palestine situation, Bevin declared that "this government did not create the Palestine problem. I do not want to create controversy," he insisted, "but ever since I have had anything to do with it I have been conscious that the Balfour Declaration promised the same thing to two peoples." The Nazi persecution of the Jews created a new situation after the war, forcing the Palestine (Mandate) Government to take costly and unwelcome measures to control increased immigration. The Balfour Declaration promised a national home, but the demand for a state intensified the conflict with the Arabs."

In a statement prior to the debate, Arthur Henderson, Air Minister, refused to give any guarantees that there would be no further air reconnaissance flights such as the one in which five R.A.F. planes were shot down over Israeli territory January 7. He denied that on the flight the British planes were accompanied by Egyptian aircraft. Referring to acting mediator Ralph J. Bunche's denial that the mediator's office had been consulted by the British before the flights were made, Henderson said that the discussions took place with the late Count Folke Bernadotte, who was assassinated on September 17, 1948.

### BEV GURION'S PARTY LEADS IN ISRAEL NATIONAL ELECTIONS; COMPLETE RETURNS TOMORROW

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The Mapai, party of Premier David Ben Gurion, established a definite lead today with some 60 percent of the civilian votes cast throughout Israel in yesterday's first national elections counted, it was announced here. The total and the soldier vote will be announced Friday.

Trailing the Labor Party, which received 34.4 percent, were the Religious Bloc, Mapam and Heruth, with 13.6, 12.6 and 11.2 percent of the vote, respectively. The General Zionists were in fifth place with 5.7 percent; Progressives, 4.6 percent; Sephardi, 3.7 percent; and Communists, 3.5 percent.

The Tel Aviv-Jaffa civilian finals gave the Mapai 34 percent, Heruth 16.3, Religious Bloc 13.4, Mapam 9.4, General Zionists 7, Progressives 4.7, Sephardi 2.5 and Communists, 2.6. The soldier vote in the Tel Aviv-Jaffa district will not be announced separately but will be included in the overall total for the troops.

In Jerusalem incomplete results gave the Mapai first place with 28 percent, the Religious Bloc 23, Heruth 14, Progressives 3.3, Mapam 4, and General Zionists 1. In Abu Gosh, an all-Arab suburb of Jerusalem where 174 of a possible 194 ballots were cast, the Mapai received 165, the former Sternists eight and the Heruth one.

DECISION ON FULL U.S. RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL LIES WITH TRUMAN, SECRETARY OF STATE SAYS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Secretary of State Dean Acheson told his first press conference here today that there was nothing he could say about possible United States recognition of Israel now that the Israeli elections have taken place and a permanent government is being formed. He said that the matter was properly one within the jurisdiction of the President.

Presidential press secretary Charles G. Ross was asked about current reports that full recognition for Israel is imminent. He replied that there was nothing further he could add to what has already been said.

Secretary Acheson told his press conference he had no information about the status of American citizens who have been fighting with Israeli forces. A reporter told him that there had been suggestions that their passports might be taken up.

U.O.A. OPPOSES INTERVENTION OF JEWISH AGENCY IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF U.J.A.

NEW YORK, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of America today made public the text of a resolution adopted this week by its national executive committee with regard to the situation in the United Palestine Appeal and the contemplated plenary meeting of the Jewish Agency executive in New York on the same situation. The resolution reads:

"1. The Zionist Organization of America approves and commends, fully and unqualifiedly, our representatives in the United Palestine Appeal, headed by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Mr. Herman Weisman, for their support of the position taken by the Appeal with respect to its autonomy, its freedom of action and its rejection of any interference in its operations by any groups or individuals without authorized competence or jurisdiction.

"2. The Jewish Agency for Palestine be advised that the Zionist Organization of America deems any intervention by the Agency in the matter of techniques and organization of the American Zionist movement as not being within their competence and jurisdiction.

"3. A cablegram be sent to the Jewish Agency for Palestine in Jerusalem advising them that their contemplated meeting in New York or elsewhere for a discussion of Zionism on the American scene is both unprecedented and emphatically inopportune at this time.

"4. The United Palestine Appeal and the United Jewish Appeal are completely and competently staffed and are fully prosecuting the 1949 U.J.A. campaign throughout the United States; that this national executive committee is convinced that any and every attempt to foist the former U.P.A. director, Mr. Montor, upon the Zionists of America is bound to and is calculated to create dissension in all of the Jewish communities in the United States; that such unwarranted action will jeopardize the success of the United Jewish Appeal campaign to the grave detriment of Israel, its future and its tremendous tasks; that our representatives are hereby requested to continue to maintain the firmest possible stand against his reemployment in any capacity under any circumstances."

AMERICAN MEMBER OF PALESTINE CONCILIATION COMMISSION LEAVES FOR JERUSALEM FRIDAY

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Mark Etridge, American member of the U.N. Conciliation Commission, will leave for Jerusalem on Friday, it was announced here today. He is expected to consult with U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie before departing.

U.N. security officer Frank Begley will leave Lake Success for Jerusalem this week to help chose 11 men from the Israeli Army and 11 members of the Arab Legion who are to stand guard at Government House in Jerusalem where the Conciliation Commission will start its work next week. Government House is located in the southern neutral zone between sections of Jerusalem occupied by Arab and Israeli forces.

ISRAEL'S ACCEPTANCE INTO U.N. "FAIRLY CERTAIN," EBAN DECLARES; HONORED BY Z.O.A.

NEW YORK, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Aubrey S. Eban, Israeli representative to the United Nations, tonight declared that it is "a fairly certain prospect" that Israel will become a member of the international body. Speaking at a testimonial dinner in his honor tendered by the Zionist Organization of America, Eban said that the most crucial task facing his nation is the establishment of normal relations with the Arab world.

Decrying the concept that small states should be "visible" rather than "audible," Eban expressed the opinion that "states with small populations and limited strategic influence have a leading role to play in the development of international co-operation." He pointed out that the Israeli delegation, in the course of its activities at the United Nations, has noticed that the refusal "to subordinate principle to expediency, the insistence upon the liberal virtues, the assiduous pursuit of conciliation" are open to any country, however small.

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Z.O.A., paying tribute to President Truman, insisted that the U.S. "has led the way toward a new orientation in Near Eastern policy" which he hoped would lead to the "dawning of a new day" not only for Israel but for the Arab people. He added: "In largest measure he is personally responsible for the firm and constructive policy which has replaced the vacillations, the ambiguities and the contradictions which plagued our State Department so long. God grant President Truman the strength, as he has, I am sure, the good-will to see it through to the end."

Dr. Neumann also expressed a feeling of justified pride of American Zionists that "our beloved country has vindicated the hopes and the confidence we have all entertained by assuming at long last the moral and political leadership of a just cause, which we had every right to expect." He added: "The granting of the \$100,000,000 loan was much more than a timely and generous gesture of financial assistance. It was a great political act. It was a mighty blow in the struggle for Israel's freedom, signaling to the world the determination of this great democracy to back Israel to the hilt and see it through."

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, emphasized that "the task of American Zionists has just begun, and must be carried out with accelerated tempo. The establishment of the Jewish state confronts the movement in this country with a renewed challenge. The problem facing the infant state in the economic upbuilding of the country, in the absorption of hundreds of thousands of newcomers, staggers the imagination.

"The major burden of aiding the economic upbuilding of the State, the colonization and settlement of the vast numbers of immigrants, falls upon us in this country," he concluded.

Other speakers included Dr. Jorge Garcia-Granados, Guatemalan representative to the U.N., Charles Fahy, former U.S. Solicitor General, and Jacques Torczynser, member of the Z.O.A. national executive.

HUNGARIAN OFFICIAL SAYS SITUATION CONFUSED ON RESTITUTION OF VALUABLES TO JEWS

BUDAPEST, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The situation as regards the restitution of jewelry and other valuables recovered from the Nazis who stole them from Hungarian Jews is confused, Ferenc Jeszenszky, general director of the Hungarian National Bank, today told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Jeszenszky also stated that the government intends to make full restitution to Jewish owners of the property, although thus far only a few Jews -- survivors of the towns of Tatatovares and Nagykoros -- whose property was in labelled envelopes have actually had any property returned to them. The bank official pointed out that included among the loot are pieces of jewelry with Arrow Cross and Nazi emblems, proving that the Nazis did not restrict their looting to Jews. This situation tends to slow down the entire sorting operation which, the official declared, is not an overnight affair.

He said that in the event the property consists of scrap gold, gold bars or gold plate or medals of valuable metal, government regulations do not permit the return of the property in this form. In such cases the currency value of the jewelry is deposited to the account of the owner or his heirs. All such accounts, however, are blocked pending clarification of the procedure for establishing rights to property. Finally, the bank director pointed out that there are specific procedures which the peace treaties bind Hungary to follow in the disposition of such property, adding that in every case the government is acting in consonance with such instructions.

JEWS COMMUNITIES IN POLAND ARE INDEPENDENT IN THEIR FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, STATEMENT SAYS

WARSAW, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The Central Committee of Jews in Poland has issued a statement denying reports which appeared in the American press that it is hampering the legalization of the Jewish communities or that it wishes to control their finances.

The statement, which is signed by Dr. A. Berman, chairman of the Central Committee, and by Rabbi David Kahane, president of the Association of Jewish Communities, emphasizes that there is no need to legalize the Jewish communities because their activity is legal and they are recognized by the Polish Government on the same basis as other religious groups.

The statement also declares that no attempts were made on the part of the Central Committee to interfere with the financial affairs of the Jewish communities. "The communities make their own decisions as to their sources of income and the size of their budgets," the statement said.

TURKEY'S BAN ON JEWISH EMIGRATION PLACES FINANCIAL BURDEN ON ISTANBUL COMMUNITY

ISTANBUL, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The recent Turkish Government ban on the emigration of all Jews unless they can produce valid entrance visas to western European countries has created a major problem for the Istanbul Jewish community.

The community is forced to shoulder a great financial burden in assisting Jews in this city who gave up jobs, sold businesses and furniture and in some cases surrendered their apartments in expectation of leaving for Israel. Hundreds of Jews have arrived here from other cities and provincial areas in order to clear their applications for exit visas through various government offices. Stranded for weeks, they are living in hotels and other types of temporary quarters.

