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SIMPLE CEREMONY MARKS SIGNED OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN ARMISTICE; ALL PARTIES HAIL PACT

REUTERS, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The armistice agreement between Israel and Egypt was signed this forenoon at 10:30 in the Hotel des Roses.

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, the United Nations acting mediator for Palestine, was the first to enter the room where the signing took place, followed by Maj. Gen. William E. Riley, his chief of staff. Second to enter was the Israeli delegation, headed by Dr. Walter Rytan, its head, and Col. Yigal Yadin, Israeli Army chief-of-staff. Last to appear on the scene were the Egyptians, led by Col. Mohamed Ibrahim Seif Eddin and Col. Mohamed Kamel el Rokhant.

The delegates sat facing each other at a square table, at the head of which were United Nations officials. At 10:30 A.M. sharp, Dr. Bunche struck the table with his gavel, opening the fifth and final joint formal meeting between the disputants. The acting mediator explained the procedure of signing, after which secretaries entered with five bound copies of the armistice agreement. The first three copies were submitted to the Egyptian delegation, for whom Col. Seif Eddin signed; then Dr. Rytan and Col. Yadin signed.

In a second round, the annexes to the armistice were signed, each of the chief delegates signing 24 times with his own pen. The signing procedure took exactly ten minutes, after which Dr. Bunche addressed the delegations. He said in part:

"Important history is being recorded here today. You have now made a significant contribution to the cause of world peace and, for this, the international community of the Near East and the people of Palestine shall fervently thank you."

The acting mediator expressed his thanks to both delegations for their conciliatory spirit resulting in a "thoroughly worthy, practical and workable agreement. With good will and good faith on both sides, it can and will work. You have both assured me of your sincere determination to insure its effectiveness."

Egyptian and Israeli Delegates Laud Dr. Bunche's Achievement

The U.N. official was followed by Col. Seif Eddin. "At this important moment," he said, "we thank Dr. Bunche who never lost hope." He also thanked the community of Rhodes for its hospitality and concluded with assurances that the armistice agreement would be carried out in all sincerity and good will.

"We signed the agreement and it must be implemented in a spirit of mutual understanding and good will in order to secure the ultimate ends at which the agreement aims. We are hopeful that it will not raise any difficulty and disturb the stability of this part of the world."

Dr. Rytan followed, saying: "I should like to express our satisfaction with the conclusion of the armistice agreement and with the fact that each has shown an understanding of the other's viewpoint. I think everybody will share my view that the agreements are fair and honorable for both sides and that it augurs well for peaceful relations between them in the future. I am certain that the armistice provisions

will be scrupulously observed and that their scrupulous observance will lead to the intensification on a national scale of these friendly relations which we have been privileged to form at Rhodes with the Egyptian delegation."

Turning to Dr. Bunche, Dr. Eytan added: "If it had not been for your unfailing kindness, your patience, ample fund of constructive ideas and your almost superhuman capacity for hard work, the results of this conference might have been different...we had one chapter today but we are confident that this is merely the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the relations between our peoples and the pacific development of the Middle East."

Israelis and Egyptians Shake Hands; Receive Souvenirs from U.N. Mediator

After the formal signing and the foregoing addresses, Dr. Bunche invited both delegations to remain for informal conversations. During the informal meeting Dr. Bunche presented the members of both delegations with decorated ceramic plates inscribed: "Rhodes Armistice Talks, 1949." After this informal ceremony the members of the two delegations mixed, shook hands and congratulated each other. The Egyptians left for Cairo by plane today and the Israelis are due to leave for Tel Aviv tomorrow.

After the formal and informal meetings were over Col. Yadin held a press conference at which he outlined the military high points of the pact. Beside outlining the various lines of demarcation and areas affected by the agreement, Yadin stressed that the northern part of the Negev was not included in the agreement since the Jews must reach a settlement in that area with the Transjordanians, who are scheduled to arrive here Sunday for the beginning of the next set of negotiations.

The fact of the existence of the state of Israel has been recognized for the first time by an Arab state as a result of Egypt's signature of the Israeli-Egyptian armistice. The words "Israel" or "Israeli" are used in the agreement at least 13 times. The Egyptian delegate placed his name next to that of the Jewish representative who signed "for and in behalf of the Government of Israel."

Other major features of the 5,000-word document are: withdrawal of Israeli striking forces from Bir Asluj and El Auja to behind the line from which they launched their Negev offensive last Oct. 14. This point of the agreement gave Beersheba to Israel; Retreat of Egyptian striking forces from the Bethlehem-Hebron area to points behind the Egyptian frontier. Evacuation of encircled Egyptian forces and such Arab civilians as wish to leave Faluja. Establishment of a seven-man armistice commission to sit at El Auja to supervise the armistice. The commission will be composed of three men from each side and headed by Brig. Gen. William E. Riley, chief of the U.N. observers staff.

ISRAEL REnews APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN U.N.; ASSES EARLY ACTION BY SECURITY COUNCIL

LAKE SUCCESS, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government tonight renewed its application for membership in the United Nations. In a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie, Aubrey S. Eban, Israeli representative to the U.N., filed the application which requested Security Council action in time for the General Assembly "to take its decision at its resumed session in April."

Commenting on the prospects of the application, an Israeli spokesman here called attention to the progress the Israeli Government has made in the diplomatic world since its application--the first one--fell two votes short of adoption by the Security Council in Paris last year. He pointed out that in Paris only three members of the 11-nation Security Council had accorded Israel recognition. As the Council is now constituted, nine of its members--all but China and Egypt--have recognized the Tel Aviv regime.

SHERTOK SAYS ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN ARMISTICE PACT IS FIRST FRUIT OF JEWISH STATEHOOD

TEL AVIV, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok greeted the signature of the Israeli-Egyptian armistice today as a momentous event in the Middle East and the first fruit of Jewish statehood.

The Foreign Minister recalled that the agreement was the first Arab-Jewish accord signed since that reached by Dr. Chaim Weizmann and the Emir Feisal more than two decades ago for the implementation of the Balfour Declaration.

He paid tribute to the "realism of the Egyptian Government" which made the agreement signed on Rhodes today possible, and said Israel was confident Egypt would not have cause to regret her initiative in ending hostilities. The entire Middle East, he added, would soon become aware of its indebtedness to Egypt for taking a new course.

The efforts of the Israeli delegation at Rhodes, Shertok said, had been aimed at upholding and safeguarding Israel's national security and territorial integrity and to explore every possibility of a compromise that would achieve an effective armistice as a prelude to permanent peace.

He pointed out that Israel, under the armistice, has "unimpaired control of the entire territory of the Negev" with particular freedom of action in the Eastern part. Israel, however, made the sacrifice of agreeing that the invading forces temporarily occupy an important strip of Palestine territory and that the Israeli forces evacuate some of the areas occupied by them during the war.

"The wisdom of these concessions, which will arouse criticism, will be vindicated if the armistice leads to a lasting peace," the Foreign Minister commented. "They do not constitute a commitment regarding the eventual peace settlement." He warmly praised Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, U.N. acting mediator, and Brig. Gen. William Riley, his chief of staff, and said their contribution to the cause of peace was now "concrete and decisive."

Replying to correspondents' questions, Shertok said he understood that in the future Egypt will not interfere with Israel-bound traffic going through the Suez Canal or Israel-bound ships making calls at Egyptian ports.

The Israeli delegation to the forthcoming Transjordan-Israeli armistice negotiations has not yet been named, Shertok said, adding that the Transjordanians would have to provide credentials to prove they also represent Iraq.

BEN CURION RETURNS TO TEL AVIV; WILL START CONSULTATIONS ON FORMATION OF NEW GOVT.

TEL AVIV, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion returned here today from Jerusalem, where he had been recuperating from an illness following the opening of the Constituent Assembly. Tonight he is scheduled to begin consultations with the various parties in the Assembly on formation of the new government.

The repatriation of prisoners of war captured by Israeli forces in the Jerusalem area and by the Arab Legion is expected to be completed some time next week, it was learned here today.

Another group of 150 Jewish prisoners released from the Mafrak camp in Transjordan today reached Jerusalem. Most of the members of the group were taken prisoner when the Kfar Etzion colonies fell to the Legion in the earliest phase of the Palestine war. Neutral observers in Jerusalem consider this exchange of able-bodied prisoners by two belligerents unprecedented in modern military history.

TRUMAN "IMMENSELY GRATIFIED" OVER ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN ARMISTICE; LAUDS BOTH NATIONS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- President Truman told a press conference today that he was "immensely gratified" over news that Israel and Egypt have signed a formal armistice agreement at Rhodes. Reading a prepared statement, the President said the act was "a tribute to the restraint and statesmanship of the two governments."

The President paid tribute to Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, acting U.N. mediator for Palestine, whose "untiring efforts," he said, "have so greatly contributed to the success of these negotiations." He also expressed the hope that similar armistice agreements would be signed between Israel and the other Arab states and that a general armistice will then lead to the attainment of a permanent peace. As a member of the Palestine Conciliation Commission, Mr. Truman declared, "the United States stands ready to assist the parties to the rapid conclusion of a just and honorable peace."

The President was asked about reports that the Middle East is one of the underdeveloped areas in which he hopes to apply his now-famous point four of his inaugural address, which called for sending American scientific and technological skills to underdeveloped areas. He replied that he did not wish to comment on the question at this time. There have been certain developments in the Middle East that will be for the benefit and welfare of the whole area, he said, adding that when peace is arrived at in that area, the matter can be discussed in detail.

U.N. PALESTINE CONCILIATION COMMISSION ARRIVES IN TEL AVIV; CONFERS WITH SHERTOK

TEL AVIV, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The members of the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission arrived here this morning from Beirut, the last place they visited on their tour of the capitals of the Arab states at war with Israel. This afternoon they conferred with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok.

During the two-hour talk between Shertok and the Commissioners there was a back-and-forth exchange of views with the latter explaining to the Israeli Minister the concern of the Arab governments over the fate of the Palestine Arab refugees. Shertok replied that Israel is ready to discuss that problem at the peace talks, which can start as soon as any Arab nation nominates its delegates to a peace conference.

The members of the Commission will be Shertok's guests at dinner tonight and will be received by Premier David Ben Gurion tomorrow at his residence. Tomorrow afternoon they will be received at Rehovoth by President Weizmann, after which they will return to Jerusalem. No other arrangements for contact between the Commission and the Israeli Government have been made so far.

Commission chairman Mark Ethridge, American member, told a press conference here that the commission's work will be facilitated greatly by the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian armistice pact. He revealed that acting mediator Ralph J. Bunche's military and political aides, Gen. William Riley and Henri Vigier, brought the Rhodes agreement to the Commission at Beirut yesterday.

Ethridge said the Commission appreciated the job done by Dr. Bunche and had decided to leave the problem of completing armistice agreements to him, while it would concentrate on political problems alone. The Jerusalem consular truce commission will also continue to function in truce matters, he disclosed.

Although the Commission theoretically had until next September to report to the General Assembly, Ethridge said, it would undoubtedly be expected to make a progress report to the April session and would endeavor to do so.

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DEPARTURE OF FIRST GROUP OF BELSEN JEWS FOR ISRAEL DELAYED; LACK OF SHIPPING SPACE CITED

LONDON, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The departure of the first contingent of Israel-bound immigrants from Belsen of both military and non-military age, which was scheduled to take place today, has been postponed until Monday owing to the shortage of Israeli shipping space, a Foreign Office source told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. Seven hundred Jews are in this group.

A second batch of 1,500 Belsen Jews is expected to leave for Israel soon after the departure of the initial contingent on Monday. Complete emptying out of the Belsen DP camps can be expected within a few weeks, the Foreign Office report said.

JEWISH DEPUTY IN RUMANIAN PARLIAMENT ATTACKS ZIONISM; URGES JEWS TO REMAIN IN RUMANIA

BUCAREST, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- Following three mass demonstrations in front of the Israeli legation in Bucharest by Rumanian Jews seeking visas for Israel, Berca Feldman, a deputy in the Rumanian parliament and leader of the Jewish Democratic Committee, today attacked the demonstrations as "provocation against the Rumanian Popular Republic and the Peoples Democracy."

In an address to other leaders of the committee, Feldman urged them "to spare no efforts to unmask Zionists," who, he said, were supporting by their actions the "war-mongering imperialist camp. We must enlighten the Jewish masses that only by productive work and the building-up of socialism in Rumania, can they assure themselves of a happy future," Feldman concluded.

JEWISH LEADER GETS ASSURANCES EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM POLAND TO ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE

WARSAW, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- Dr. Adolph Berman, chairman of the Jewish Central Committee, has been informed by Polish Government officials that emigration of Jews from Poland to Israel will be continued, it was learned here. Those who will be able to proceed to Israel are Zionists, members of all Zionist organizations and those with close relatives in Israel.

The Ministry of Interior has already received instructions to issue passports to those who qualify for emigration. Hitherto, this task was carried out by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

IRISH JEWS FLOCKING INTO ISTANBUL EN ROUTE TO ISRAEL; 1,000 DEPARTED SINCE BAN LIFTED

ISTANBUL, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- Jews from all parts of Turkey have again begun to flock to Istanbul following the lifting of a ban on their migration to Israel.

Since the ban was raised hundreds of Jews have left Istanbul daily, and most of the estimated 1,000 persons who had been issued visas and then forbidden to leave have now emigrated. Another 1,000 have applied for visas in the last five days and it is expected that by the end of the month some 3,000 Jews will be on their way to the Jewish state or already there.

IRISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN TRIPOLI ORDERED NOT TO HAMPER EMIGRATION OF JEWS

LONDON, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The British Foreign Office today informed the World Jewish Congress that the British military administration in Tripoli has been instructed to place no obstacles in the way of Jews--whether they are of military age or not--who wish to emigrate. The head of the Jewish community in Tripoli has been officially informed of these instructions.

ISRAELI FLAG TO FLY FROM U.S. WARSHIPS ENTERING JEWISH STATE'S TERRITORIAL WATERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The Star of David will be hoisted aboard U.S. warships entering Israeli waters, it was learned here today.

Exact specifications of the flag of Israel were requested by the Fleet Signal Communication Section, U.S. Navy, from the Israeli mission. The new colors will be flown as a salute to the new state. An Israeli spokesman said the desired information was supplied.

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE CONVENTION OPENS; WILL SEEK TO RAISE \$1,850,000 IN 1949

ATLANTIC CITY, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The seventh biennial convention of the Jewish Labor Committee opened here today and will continue through Sunday. Chief subjects on the agenda are the "crucial problems confronting Jewry at home and abroad, and ways and means of defending Jewish rights everywhere." More than 600 delegates are attending the gathering.

Adolph Bold, president, addressing the opening session, extended greetings to Israeli President Dr. Chaim Weizmann on behalf of the "500,000 trade unionists" represented by the Jewish Labor Committee. He also lauded the Histadrut "for its perseverance and idealism" which contributed "immeasurably to the formation of the new state."

Jacob Pat, executive secretary of the organization, reported that the Jewish Labor Committee maintains 16 havens in France, chiefly for orphaned children. Another 13 homes are maintained in Belgium, he said. The Committee's budget in 1949 was \$1,111,649, he said, adding that he would recommend a budget of \$1,850,000 for 1949.

President Truman sent greetings to the convention, asserting that the Committee "is indeed to be congratulated upon the fine, patriotic and humanitarian work it has done in the 15 years of its existence. I wish the Committee every success in the continuation of its educational program to combat all totalitarian ideologies and to promote national understanding and good will."

JEWISH STANDARD CEASES TO BE REVISIONIST ORGAN IN BRITAIN; TAKEN OVER BY NEW GROUP

LONDON, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The Jewish Standard, organ of the British Revisionist Party, has passed into new ownership and has suspended publication for three weeks. At the end of that period the publication will appear in a new and enlarged format with a new name. Its editorial board will include Jewish leaders representative of various sections of the community.

BERNARD BARUCH NAMED HONORARY MEMBER OF BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE

NEW YORK, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- Bernard M. Baruch was today named an honorary member of the British Association of Physical Medicine. In 1944, he set up the Baruch Committee on Physical Medicine with a \$1,100,000 grant for treatment, training and research to aid the physically handicapped.

CLEVELAND ZIONIST DISTRICT PRESENTS DR. SILVER WITH TRACT OF LAND IN ISRAEL

CLEVELAND, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The Cleveland Zionist District has presented Dr. Abba Hillel Silver with a tract of land in Israel which includes a 1,000-tree grove planted in memory of his late parents, it was reported here today. Dr. Silver's father, Rabbi Moshe Silver, died in Jerusalem last year.