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ISRAEL AND TRANSJORDAN SIGN CEASE-FIRE FOR ALL COMMON FRONTS AT RHODES CEREMONY

RHODES, March 11. (JTA) -- A cease-fire for the entire Israeli-Transjordan front was signed here today by representatives of the two countries meeting under the auspices of acting United Nations mediator Ralph J. Bunche.

The agreement was signed by Beuvan Shiloah, of the Foreign Office, and Lt. Col. Moshe Dayan, Israeli commander of the Jerusalem front, for Israel, at a formal joint meeting. The five-minute signing ceremony was preceded by separate meetings with Dr. Bunche and each of the delegations. It is understood that no declarations of any kind are incorporated in the agreement and that the question of frontiers was left open. No maps of the respective positions of the two armies were attached to the cease-fire pact.

After the conclusion of the agreement, Dr. Bunche made the following statement for insertion in the official record of the negotiations:

"If and when a Transjordan force shall take over any sectors of any Arab front not occupied by Transjordan at the signing of this agreement, I will call on both parties immediately to extend the agreement from its present form to such new sectors and fronts. I shall expect each delegation to act favorably to such a call."

Dr. Bunche also thanked the two delegations for displaying a spirit of cooperation and conciliation which made possible the completion of the "first step" in their common efforts. He expressed the hope that the agreement would be scrupulously observed in both its spirit and letter.

Mediator Gets Transjordan Complaint on Akaba Situation

Dr. Bunche, in the meantime, has received from Amman a formal Transjordanian complaint alleging clashes in the Negev between the Arab Legion and Israeli forces, but without giving the specific location of such clashes. Neither the acting mediator nor U.N. observers received concrete information on the subject and the Israeli delegation here denied that a clash had occurred.

The mediator has therefore dispatched Dr. Paul Mohn, his chief adviser stationed at Tel Aviv, to the disputed area to investigate and report on the situation. At the same time, Dr. Bunche notified Tel Aviv and Amman through their respective delegations that he would strictly invoke the U.N. Security Council's truce resolution of July 15, 1948, forbidding clashes in this area which may disrupt those or any other negotiations. Dr. Bunche warned the two governments to adhere to the resolution and said that anyone guilty of a breach of it would be reported to the Security Council.

Dr. Bunche also cabled to his chief of staff, Brig. Gen. William E. Riley, asking him to verify the Amman charge on the following points: "First, that the Israelis attempted to cross lines occupied by the Arab Legion. Second, that Israeli forces penetrated Egyptian territory at a point 35 miles northwest of Akaba. Third, that the Israeli airforce appeared over El Ghamer in Transjordanian territory March 3

and considerable forces of Israeli jeeps and armored cars, supported by planes, crossed Arab Legion lines March 7, one kilometer west of Bir Ibn Ode and proceeded to the southwest toward Wadi Joffrafi."

Dr. Bunche informed Gen. Riley today that the head of the Transjordan delegation, Suddi Jundi, had handed him a cablegram from his government stating that "military operations against the Arab Legion at Wadi Araba were continuing with the Israelis attacking Arab positions with tanks and armored cars." The cablegram instructed Jundi to submit a strong protest to Dr. Bunche, asking him to stop the Israeli attacks "while negotiations are in progress."

Dr. Bunche instructed the U.N. force in Palestine to increase the number of observers in the disputed area and told them to discourage any patrol activities which were "contrary to the truce." Shilcah, for the Israeli Government, said that "these are regular patrols and were not intending to advance to Akaba."

SECRET DENIES ISRAEL INVADED AKABA AREA; REVEALS ARABS ENTERED JEWISH TERRITORY

TEL AVIV, March 11. (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Sharet today reiterated the Israeli Government's categorical denial that its forces had penetrated Transjordan territory in the Akaba area, but at the same time revealed that an Arab Legion unit had advanced five miles into Israel in the southern Negev area and had withdrawn after a minor skirmish. He spoke at a press conference.

Sharet stated that the Transjordanian invasion had occurred in the vicinity of a police station at Ghandall and that a few shots had been exchanged, but that the Arab patrol withdrew without "a single drop of blood having been shed." He added that today there were no Transjordan troops on any Israeli soil in the southern desert, all of which was in the firm possession of Israel.

Sharet disclosed that no contact had been made with British troops in the area. Reporting that the British Government had addressed a query to Tel Aviv whether it had any intentions in relation to these troops, Sharet said that Tel Aviv's reply pointed out that Israel had protested the landings of the British units at Akaba but had no aims in relation to Akaba or any other Transjordanian territory.

No American representations concerning Akaba had been made to the Israeli Government, he stated, adding that all the governments represented in Israel, including the Soviet Union, had been informed of the status of the Akaba situation. He also said that the question was discussed with the U.N. mediator's headquarters in Rhodes and that Israel had requested that a U.N. observer be sent to the area to study the situation.

Turning to the Lebanese armistice negotiations, the Foreign Minister asserted that some progress had been made at yesterday's session at Ras el Nakura, but that the end of the talks was not yet in sight. Asked whether the recent events in the Negev had effected the negotiations with Transjordan at Rhodes, he replied that he hoped that they had had "far reaching" effects.

Only Syria and Iraq of all the Arab countries which invaded Palestine have not yet agreed to participate in armistice parleys. They will have to bear the responsibility for their refusals, he warned. As for the Egyptian armistice agreement, Sharet said that it was functioning successfully. Asked about the Jews detained in Egypt, he said that it was his understanding that they would be released soon.

He also stated that the U.N. mediator had intervened with the Iraqi and garrison forces in the "triangle" opposite Tel Aviv to quit their raids on Jewish settlements. He expressed the hope that the mediator's action would be effective, but added that the Israeli Army's warning to the Arabs of retribution for further raids still stands.

MINISTER SAYS BRITISH TROOPS WILL NOT BE USED AT AKABA UNLESS TRANSJORDAN ASKS SUPPORT

LONDON, March 11. (JTA) -- British troops will not be used in the Akaba area against Israel unless Transjordan specifically asks for British support or in the event of a direct threat to the British force stationed in that region, Hector McNeill, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, declared today in Commons.

McNeill, pressed for information concerning the alleged incursion of Transjordan territory by Israeli forces, repeated the gist of the Amman dispatches and added that no British forces were involved. He said that the U.N. was checking on the reports and that the Foreign Secretary preferred to make no further statement until the findings of the U.N. observers were available.

(In Washington a State Department spokesman today declared that Secretary of State Dean Acheson was in close touch with British Ambassador Sir Oliver Franks on the Akaba situation. The spokesman did not reveal the precise nature of the talks, saying only that "information on Akaba" was exchanged.)

ISRAELI FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNCES DEVELOPMENT SCHEME; PLAN TO ATTRACT CAPITAL

TEL AVIV, March 11. (JTA) -- The Israeli mission to the U.N. today told the United Nations that the decision of the Palestine Conciliation Commission to grant the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem a hearing will prejudice the cause of Arab-Jewish peace "now in the making."

In a letter to Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the U.N., Israeli representative Aubrey S. Eban recalls that the ex-Mufti collaborated with Hitler in the massacre of six million Jews, has always been the advocate of bloodshed and conflict in Palestine and is "the avowed enemy of the United Nations."

ISRAELI FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNCES DEVELOPMENT SCHEME; PLAN TO ATTRACT CAPITAL

TEL AVIV, March 11. (JTA) -- The presence of large sums of capital--mainly from foreign sources--will be a decisive factor in a development scheme for Israel which is being worked out in detail by the Finance Ministry, Eliezer Kaplan, the Finance Minister, revealed today at a press conference here.

The Minister reiterated previous pledges that his government will give all aid to an influx of capital, provided that it is engaged in constructive work. Arrangements will be made for the transfer of dividends earned without the application of a second tax on this income, he said. Specifically, Kaplan stated that machinery and tools purchased with such dividends might be imported into Israel duty-free. In addition, the government will provide free of charge sites for the erection of industrial establishments.

The Ministry is now working on a trade balance scheme for 1949 which it hopes will be operable despite the fact that from 40 to 50 percent of the nation's food-stuffs must be imported. Pointing out that one of Israel's chief problems is the fight against inflation, Kaplan announced that a special Ministry has been created to cope with the situation.

Queried about the payment of British claims against Israel, the Cabinet member disclosed that Israel will refuse to pay for the upkeep of the Cyprus camps in which Jewish refugees were interned against their will and which the British Government has charged against the account of the former Palestine Government. He also stated that Israel is drawing up counter-claims which will be presented to the British when fiscal negotiations begin. He gave no hint when such parleys were scheduled to start.

REGIONS CONFERENCE HEARS PLEA FOR NEW APPROACH TO AMERICAN JEWISH PROBLEMS

SAN FRANCISCO, March 11. (JTA) -- Problems of American Jewish community life, well as questions of aid for Jews in Europe and Israel, were discussed here at the regional Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, which was attended by more than 200 delegates from 17 cities in western states.

The meeting, which lasted two days, requested that the International Refugee Organization meet its full responsibilities in providing the cost of transportation of Jewish DP's to Israel. At the same time it urged Jewish communities in the United States to mobilize their total resources to meet the 1949 needs of overseas, national and local agencies.

Stanley C. Myers, national president of the C.J.F.W.F., addressing the parlay, stressed the need for a changed approach to the problems besetting the American Jewish community today. Speaking on "The Jewish Community at the Crossroads," Mr. Myers pointed out that the planning concepts of yesterday had no place in the modern schemes of things and that "now is the time" for communities to bend all their efforts in the direction of long-range total planning.

Arnold Gurin, director of budget research for the Council, recommended a strong, positive approach to the matter of "Fund Raising in 1949." Mr. Gurin pointed out that conditions were favorable for intensified fund-raising and that a proper meeting of the total 1949 needs was a responsibility which the entire Jewish community had to meet. He warned against the spirit of false optimism that might prevail as a result of the good news from Israel and urged the local communities to point out the serious need for philanthropic funds in Israel.

The conference adopted a decision calling upon local communities to develop community cooperation to the point where contributors and community leaders will support independent drives only after previous clearance and approval of the welfare funds. It also asked the communities to explore the implications of the C.J.F.W.F.'s General Assembly resolution on "Stable and Unified National Fund Raising." It also called upon the Council to explore with national agencies methods of coordinating publicity material, and recommended that a proposed institute project of the Training Bureau for Jewish Communal Service be encouraged and assisted.

Elected to carry on the program of the Western States Region for the coming year were Marcel Hirsch of San Francisco, president; Raphael Brandes of Tucson, Charles Brown of Los Angeles and Frank M. Fink of Portland, vice-presidents; Irving Schneider of Long Beach, treasurer; and Lewis Weintrub of San Francisco, regional director.

COMMUNAL LEADERS FROM FIFTY CITIES MEET IN NEW YORK TO MAP LAUNCHING OF U.J.A. DRIVE

NEW YORK, March 11. (JTA) -- Top executives of Jewish communal fund drives in nearly 50 major cities of the United States met yesterday with Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, to map plans for the launching of the U.J.A.'s drive for \$250,000,000 at the national conference to be held March 19-20 in Washington, D.C.

During the meeting, which was held at the Hotel Astor, the community leaders heard discussions of the urgent reconstruction, emigration and settlement needs that must be met by the 1949 U.J.A. drive from Mr. Morgenthau, Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee; Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, national chairman of the U.J.A., and Harold J. Goldensberg, of Minneapolis, chairman of the National Campaign Cabinet of the drive.

20,000,000 HOUSING CORPORATION ESTABLISHED IN ISRAEL; CAPITAL TO BE SOUGHT ABROAD

JERUSALEM, March 11. (JTA) -- Establishment of a new \$20,000,000 Jewish national housing corporation, "Amidar," was announced here today by Dr. Israel Goldstein, treasurer of the Jewish Agency.

The Israeli Government, Dr. Goldstein said, is providing both moral and financial support to the venture. It will contribute half of its capital, with the rest to be shared by the Jewish National Fund and public housing companies. Capital will be sought through debentures, which will be sold abroad by the Israeli Government. The greater part of the capital will be composed of United Palestine Appeal funds.

The board of directors of the new corporation includes Eliezer Kaplan, Israeli Finance Minister, Dr. Abraham Granovsky, president of the Jewish National Fund, David Horowitz, economic advisor in the Ministry of Trades and Industry, and Levi Bahkol, head of the Jewish Agency's agricultural department.

AMERICAN BUILDING FIRM TO CONSTRUCT 5,000-UNIT GARDEN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 11. (JTA) -- Plans for the construction of a privately-financed housing development in Israel were made known today by Alfred S. Levitt, who recently returned from Israel. The development--consisting of 5,000 garden-type dwelling units--will be situated eight miles south of Haifa. Levitt & Sons of Long Island, well-known builders of large-scale housing developments, will undertake construction of the project.

The Israeli Government has donated the land on which the homes will be built. Each unit will cost approximately \$4,000 and will carry a 25-year mortgage. American kitchen equipment will be used in all of the homes, which will consist of four rooms.

10,000 AMERICAN TOURISTS EXPECTED TO VISIT ISRAEL WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS

NEW YORK, March 11. (JTA) -- The prediction that 10,000 American tourists--both Jews and non-Jews--will visit Israel within the next five months was made here today by Albert Schiff, president of the Israeli Corporation of America, in connection with the announcement that the U.S. State Department is removing all restrictions on the issuance of American passports for travel to Israel.

Mr. Schiff revealed that the Israeli Corporation of America is now giving consideration to the building of hotels in the larger cities in Israel to accommodate the influx of tourists. He also disclosed that the Corporation reached an agreement with the Jewish Agency for the joint construction of low-rent housing units in Israel.

ISRAEL PLANS TO HAVE 80 PERCENT OF ITS POPULATION IN CITIES, U.S. EXPERT REPORTS

WASHINGTON, March 11. (JTA) -- Many new cities are being planned in Israel, Anatole Solow, housing consultant to the Israeli Government, said here today, following his return from the Jewish state where he conducted extensive surveys on town planning for the Israeli Government.

Israel is being planned as a highly industrialized country which will have 80 percent of its population in cities and 20 percent in farming and rural life, Solow stated. The growth of Tel Aviv and Haifa will be limited to prevent overcrowding and the handicaps of congestion. Zoning laws are being enacted to this end, he said. Tiberias and Safed are to be made into winter resorts and centers for tourists, he reported.

ISRAELI EMBASSY SAYS PRESIDENT WEIZMANN WILL DEFINITELY BE IN NEW YORK ON APRIL 23

WASHINGTON, March 11. (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Israeli Embassy said today that President Chaim Weizmann will definitely be in New York, as scheduled, on April 23. Arrangements are being completed here by the Israeli Government for the purchase of a four-engine plane which will be used to bring Dr. Weizmann to the U.S.

J.D.C. REPRESENTATIVE GETS BRITISH PERMISSION TO EVACUATE ALL YEMENITE JEWS FROM ADEN

TEL AVIV, March 11. (JTA) -- Jews by the hundreds are still fleeing from the Kingdom of Yemen into the British Crown Colony of Aden, according to Henry Viteles, representative in the Middle East of the Joint Distribution Committee.

Viteles, who returned here today from an inspection visit in Aden, said that between 400 and 500 Yemenite Jews had reached the British Colony during the last few days. All the Yemenite Jews who had taken refuge in Aden were transported to Israel by chartered planes of Alaska Airways flying "operation magic carpet," except for 850 of military age whom the Aden authorities refused permission to leave. This permission has now been granted and these refugees, too, will be flown to Israel.

The 55th flight of "operation magic carpet," was completed today at Lydda airport. The plane also carried some Jewish refugees from Shanghai who had transhipped at Aden. Following transfer of the Yemenite Jews to Israel, the emigration of some 2,100 of Aden's 2,640 Jews to Israel will begin. These Jews have been eager to leave Aden ever since the violent anti-Jewish pogroms there early last year.

AMERICAN FOUNDATION GRANTS \$110,000 FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 11. (JTA) -- The sum of \$110,000 has been granted by the Esco Foundation for Palestine to the Farmer's Federation of Israel for the purpose of establishing a technical department at the Pardes Hanna Agricultural Secondary School which is owned and maintained by the Federation, it was announced here today by Mrs. Rose G. Jacobs, president of the Foundation. The Foundation was established by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cohen of New York.

An agreement signed this week with three representatives of the Farmer's Federation now in this country provides that the new department is to train agricultural mechanics and other agricultural technicians. A repair shop and assembly plant will be set up at the school. A Youth Aliyah unit will be included and will be provided with the necessary accommodations and training.

A meeting and recreation house will also be erected for the students. It will be known as the Louise and Stephen S. Wise Meeting House. The three delegates of the Federation who signed the agreement are Tuvia Miller of Rehovoth and Zvi Isaacson and Haim Ariav of Tel Aviv.

ISIDORE SCHLESINGER, SOUTH AFRICAN INDUSTRIAL MAGNATE, DIES AT 70; WAS BORN IN U.S.

JOHANNESBURG, S. Africa, March 11. (JTA) -- Isidore W. Schlesinger, often referred to as the "unrowned king of South Africa" by virtue of his vast holdings in numerous industrial, agricultural and service enterprises, died here today at the age of 70. Schlesinger was an American Jew who came here from New York at the turn of the century.