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THE SAYS BRITAIN, NOT ISRAEL, VIOLATED PALESTINE TRUCE BY REINFORCING AQABA UNITS

LAKE SUCCESS, March 17. (JTA) -- Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, acting United Nations Palestine mediator, has informed the British delegation at Lake Success that it was Britain, rather than Israel, which violated the Palestine truce by reinforcing the garrison at Aqaba several days ago.

This new development came to light here today after the British Foreign Office in London denied having received such a communication from the mediator. Technically, it appears the Foreign Office was right since Dr. Bunche sent his message to the British delegation here, in response to a request for information from Sir Terrence Shone, Britain's representative on the Security Council.

The British delegation, apparently under instructions to make new truce breach accusations against Israel before the U.N., sent a request for information on alleged Israeli troop movements in the Negev to Dr. Bunche. The request was designed to elicit from the mediator a condemnation of Israel's recent troop maneuvers in the south-eastern Negev which culminated in the occupation of Um Reshresh, less than two miles from the Transjordan border at Aqaba but within Israel's boundaries as laid down by the United Nations.

Dr. Bunche replied, in a communication which has not been made public, that Israel was within its rights in moving troops to the Elath area. The recently-concluded armistice between Egypt and Israel had, he pointed out, not restricted Israel's freedom of movement in the eastern Negev. The Israeli operation could, therefore, not be considered a breach of the Security Council resolutions adopted in Paris last November, since these applied to a specific area of the western Negev where Israeli and Egyptian troops were then engaged. In any case, these resolutions had now been superseded by the armistice agreement, Bunche pointed out.

The mediator added that, in his opinion, if a breach of the truce had been committed, it was Britain which contravened the Security Council resolution of last July by sending troops to Aqaba and then reinforcing the garrison there. The resolution in question expressly forbade the introduction of fighting personnel, arms or military equipment into Palestine or any of the Arab countries by any power.

RHODES NEGOTIATORS AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO REDUCING FORCES; OPTIMISTIC ON ARMISTICE

RHODES, March 17. (JTA) -- Israeli and Transjordan negotiators here today agreed in principle to a reduction of their forces to units "necessary for defense purposes." A sub-committee made up of Israeli and Transjordan delegates is scheduled to meet with a U.N. official to review details.

Negotiations today also produced agreement on the division of armistice lines in the Jerusalem area into three sectors: from Budrus to Beit Naballah to Jerusalem, including the sub-sector from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea; the Jerusalem area proper, including Hebron; and the area south of the Dead Sea to Aqaba.

An Israeli spokesman said today the Rhodes talks are now progressing rapidly and "things which seemed formidable before the talks are now simpler." Transjordan and U.N. officials are also optimistic and believe that unless unforeseen circumstances arise there is now hope for an early armistice.

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RECONCILIATION COMMISSION ADVISES U.N. TO LET RHODES TALKS BECOME "DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS"

LAKE SUCCESS, March 17. (JTA) -- The U.N. Security Council was advised today by a progress report submitted by the U.N. Conciliation Commission for Palestine to permit the current armistice talks on Rhodes to become "direct negotiations" for a permanent settlement. The report also said that neither the Security Council nor the Conciliation Commission should interfere with the Rhodes talks.

Aside from the military agreements now being reached at the island headquarters of acting U.N. Palestine mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, the report added, the Commission found other evidence that the governments of the Arab states and of Israel are "in an attitude of mind definitely favorable to peace." The U.N. body's report cautioned, however, that the task of bringing the Jews and Arabs together will not be an easy one."

Touching on the questions of Jerusalem, access to the Holy Places and the Palestine Arab refugees, the Commission's report expressed optimism over prospective guarantees that the Holy Places in Jerusalem and Nazareth will be protected and will be universally accessible. Work on the problems of Jerusalem and the Arab refugees was still continuing, the report stated.

ISRAELI KNESSETH VOTES ACCEPTANCE OF \$100,000,000 AMERICAN LOAN AFTER PLEA BY KAPLAN

TEL AVIV, March 17. (JTA) -- The Israeli Knesseth today voted to accept the terms of the \$100,000,000 American loan. The vote was 85 to three, with 19 abstentions.

In appealing for the deputies to support the loan, Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan said that there were no hidden clauses in the loan agreement. He said that the nation needed some \$500,000,000 for this year's development program. He also revealed that the Export-Import Bank has advanced Israel another \$5,000,000, and that negotiations are nearing completion for trade pacts with Poland and Czechoslovakia.

The Mapam representatives demanded that loans be also sought from other countries than the U.S. and that they be free of political and economic conditions, while the Herut demanded special spending controls in connection with acceptance of the loan. Both proposals were defeated. Toward the end of the session, Premier David Ben Gurion announced that next week the Knesseth would turn to the selection of parliamentary sub-committees, the appointment of an attorney-general and a bill providing for the rehabilitation of veterans.

Israel has yet to receive any official notification of Syrian agreement to engage in armistice talks, a Foreign Ministry spokesman announced today. (Reports yesterday from Damascus stated that Premier Khaled el-Azem had told the Syrian parliament that the government had consented to enter into armistice negotiations with Israel.)

BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE REFUSES TO COMMENT ON AQABA SITUATION; TO BE DISCUSSED IN COMMONS

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- A Foreign Office spokesman today refused to comment on a report of a U.N. observer to acting mediator Ralph J. Bunche that there had been no clashes between Israelis and Transjordanians in the southern area. He said that he could not comment on it because the matter was scheduled to be discussed in Commons Monday.

The appointment of a British commercial representative in Israel and provision of normal export credit facilities so far as conditions permit are under consideration, Harold Wilson, president of the Board of Trade, announced in the House of Commons today. He added that Britain is anxious to develop trade with Israel but there would have to be negotiations to iron out certain existing difficulties.

AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN IRAQ SAYS SEVEN IRAQI JEWS SENTENCED TO DEATH IN ABSENTIA

WASHINGTON, March 17. (JTA) -- Edward S. Crocker, American Ambassador to Iraq, has cabled the State Department that the seven Jews sentenced to death in Iraq were sentenced in absentia, a Department spokesman said today. However, the names of the men were not the same as those listed in the original report.

Ambassador Crocker cabled from Baghdad that 15 Jews were also sentenced to prison in absentia and that he is continuing to check into the situation. He listed those sentenced to death as: Haron Kaddouri, Edilia Gurji Vinhas, Ibrahim Nisma Shlome, Zakki Sinior, Shlome Ezra Gurji, Daniel Ezra Gurji, and Salima Salah Ibrahim. It was inferred that these men held Iraqi citizenship and are now serving in the Israeli Army.

It was further ascertained by the State Department that some Jews are being held in Baghdad for Zionist sympathies. Their number was not disclosed.

Meanwhile, a joint delegation of Congressmen is being mustered to call on Secretary of State Dean Acheson to request American intervention. The investigation was brought about by Hyman Shulson, director of the Washington office of the American Zionist Emergency Council, who called on Joseph C. Satterthwaite, head of the State Department's Middle East section, on March 15 when the fate of the Iraqi Jews was first reported. Other protests were made by the American branch of the Jewish Agency, the American Jewish Committee and B'nai B'rith.

Rep. Emanuel Celler today urged Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, U.N. Palestine mediator, to protest to Iraq. He said in a cable: "Support of Zionism is not inconsistent with one's patriotism either in the United States or Iraq. These charges are a monstrous violation of the laws of decency and humanity."

(In Tel Aviv, Joseph Sprinzak, chairman of the Israeli Knesseth, announced that two requests for action on the position of the Jews in Iraq, "following the recent hanging there," have been made. He said the requests are now under consideration by the government and it is hoped that a full statement will be issued next week.)

BRITISH AND YEMENITE PATROLS REPORTEDLY SEAL ADEN FRONTIERS AGAINST JEWISH REFUGEES

TEL AVIV, March 17. (JTA) -- British and Yemenite border patrols are now preventing the flight of Jews from Yemen to Aden, according to private advices from Aden received here today. The border is now completely closed to Yemenite Jewish refugees, these advices stated.

Several hundred Jews seeking temporary sanctuary in Aden have been arrested by the border patrols during the last few days and sent back to Yemen territory. According to this information the fugitives sought to make their way to Israel.

The local office of the Joint Distribution Committee today denied press reports that the British authorities in Aden had prohibited the J.D.C. and the Jewish Agency from continuing relief work among the Yemenite Jewish refugees in Aden.

The Jewish community of Shanghai has transferred all its property, including a large meeting hall, theatre, and real estate holdings, valued at \$1,000,000, to the Israeli Government, it was learned here. Two Shanghai immigrants who recently arrived in Israel said that the decision to transfer the property was made at a meeting in the Chinese city several weeks ago.

ISRAEL ACCEPTED INTO MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONFERENCE AT WASHINGTON PARLEY

WASHINGTON, March 17. (JTA) -- Israel was accepted into full membership in the International Wheat Conference here this afternoon. This is the first international trade organization to which Israel has been admitted with complete equality with other nations.

Membership will permit Israel to buy wheat for much less than she has been paying on the open market. Wheat heads the list of crucial shortages in Israel. It was estimated that Israel will save approximately \$2,000,000 in the next four years through its membership in the body.

Dr. Ludwig Samuel and Arthur C.A. Liverhant, both now attached to the Israeli embassy staff in Washington, were recognized by the conference as plenipotentiary delegates. The only votes opposing Israel's admission were those of Egypt, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia.

GREEK FOREIGN OFFICE ANNOUNCES DECISION TO GRANT ISRAEL DE FACTO RECOGNITION

ATHENS, March 17. (JTA) -- The Government of Greece extended de facto recognition today to the state of Israel. Greece is the 47th country to recognize the Jewish state.

Panavoti Pipinellis, permanent Under-Secretary of the Greek Foreign Office, announced that his government had instructed the Greek consul at Tel Aviv to inform the Israeli Government of the extension of recognition.

(In Tel Aviv no official confirmation of the Greek announcement of the granting of recognition to Israel was available.)

HAITIAN GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES STATE OF ISRAEL; BECOMES 48TH NATION TO DO SO

WASHINGTON, March 17. (JTA) -- The Republic of Haiti has officially recognized Israel, a spokesman for the Israeli embassy said today. This recognition brings the total to 48.

DR. SILVER ISSUES STATEMENT DECLINING DRAFT NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENCY OF Z.O.A.

CLEVELAND, March 17. (JTA) -- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, today issued a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency declining to be drafted for the presidency of the Zionist Organization of America. Dr. Silver's statement follows:

"I greatly appreciate the sentiments of those who would like to draft me for the presidency of the Zionist Organization of America. It is a high honor to be president of the Z.O.A. and a great responsibility, especially in the days ahead when our work in behalf of Israel will call for new methods and emphases and for utmost vigilance against the forces bent upon usurpation and liquidation. But I have already served as president for two terms, and I find it impossible to accept the office again.

"Good men are available for the presidency to carry on the high traditions of this office and to carry forward the policies of the present Zionist administration which has contributed so decisively to the establishment of the state of Israel. Whomever the forthcoming Zionist convention will elect to the presidency will have my fullest support."

Last Sunday, a movement to draft Dr. Silver for the Z.O.A. presidency was launched at a meeting in Miami of representatives of Miami Zionist districts and Zionist leaders from various sections of the U.S.

DR. WISE MARKS 75TH BIRTHDAY; AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS SETS UP AWARDS IN HIS HONOR

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- Dr. Stephen S. Wise today celebrated his 75th birthday. Congratulatory messages were received by him from numerous Jewish and non-Jewish dignitaries, as well as from Jewish communities in Europe, Latin America, Australia and other areas.

The American Jewish Congress, of which Dr. Wise is president, announced last night the establishment of four annual Stephen S. Wise awards of \$1,500 each "in recognition of outstanding service or for the encouragement of creative contribution" in the "development of Israel and Israeli-American relations, the defense of the rights and status of Jews in other lands, the enrichment of Jewish cultural and religious life and the guarantee of full civil rights in the U.S. for all persons."

Dr. Wise's birthday celebration will be marked at a Golden Jubilee dinner on Sunday evening at the Hotel Biltmore here tendered by the Free Synagogue, which he founded. Outstanding leaders will pay tribute to the venerable Jewish leader for his lifetime of service to the Jewish people. Speakers will include U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Eliahu Elath, U.J.A. general chairman Henry Morgenthau Jr., and many others.

In connection with the dinner, a message from President Truman to Dr. Wise was made public today. It reads: "The religious life of the community has been enriched by your eloquent words; you have been a source of encouragement in times of darkness and an inspiration when energies had to be rallied for great causes. Democracy needs the voice of the pulpit to clarify its goals and illumine its ideals. This has been your great contribution regardless of faith or race. I am happy to join the Free Synagogue in saluting you on your 75th birthday and wishing you many more years of health and fulfillment."

Hadassah announced today that it will name the apprentices building in the Brandeis Vocational Center in Jerusalem in honor of "America's leading Zionist." The building was scheduled to be dedicated today in Jerusalem by Israeli Minister of Commerce Dr. Fritz Bernstein, Hadassah's announcement added.

SECOND GROUP OF SHANGHAI JEWISH REFUGEES EN ROUTE TO ISRAEL ARRIVES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- A group of Israel-bound Shanghai Jewish refugees who crossed the country in a sealed train after landing at San Francisco arrived here this morning. The DP's will remain at Ellis Island overnight and will board a ship for Genoa tomorrow from where they will proceed on the last lap of their journey to the Jewish state. Of the 228 Jews in the group, 192 are en route to Israel, while 36 will go to Austria, Turkey and Germany.

The refugees were permitted visitors all day today. A United Service for New Americans medical official, who accompanied the refugees on their transcontinental journey, reported that the Jews "are in good condition and in high morale."

Among the refugees who arrived this morning were the parents of Harry Methner, a former Shanghai refugee who reached the U.S. two years ago, with the assistance of the U.S.N.A. Methner waited for his parents' arrival here to marry Miss Ruth Reumann, also a refugee, who came to this country in 1941. The wedding was scheduled to be held this afternoon with all of the Shanghai refugees invited.

Meanwhile, the S.S. General Haan landed here today from Bremerhaven carrying 156 displaced Jews for whom the U.S.N.A. made immigration arrangements.

JEWISH POPULATION OF U.S. IS CLOSER TO 4,500,000 THAN 5,000,000, A.J.C. SURVEY FINDS

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- The Jewish population of the United States today is probably closer to 4,500,000 than the 5,000,000 often estimated, it was stated here today in a report of a survey of Jewish population statistics made public by the American Jewish Committee. The study by Ben B. Seligman and Harvey Swados of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds is based on a survey of the Jewish population in 700 communities in the United States reporting more than 100 Jewish residents.

The report points out that "there has never been a nation-wide census of American Jews," and appeals for a "common national effort" to amass and survey data concerning the Jewish population. It indicates that the thirteen largest Jewish communities in this country make up 75 percent of the Jewish population. The thirteen are listed as follows: Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Newark, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and San Francisco.

The object of the survey, according to the report, was to "survey local censuses, counts or studies that have been made in the past decade, with the prospect of determining the approximate validity of current population estimates, of discovering the extent to which scientific methods are being utilized in local community studies, of learning whether there is a common basis for further demographic research on Jewish population, and of collecting suggestive data that might aid in marking out a program of national population and demographic research." Member agencies of the C.J.F.W.F., files of that organization and of the United Jewish Appeal and surveys of the Jewish Welfare Board were used in the study.

SEVEN MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH GROUPS ATTACK SENATE COMPROMISE ON CIVIL RIGHTS FILIBUSTER

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- Seven major American Jewish organizations yesterday wired Senate leaders of both parties expressing their opposition to announced plans for a compromise settlement of a 16-day-old filibuster in the Senate aimed at throttling civil rights legislation proposed by the Administration, it was announced here today by the National Community Relations Advisory Council, one of the signatory bodies.

Terming the compromise to end the filibuster "complete capitulation," the telegraphed message from the Jewish organizations declared that the proposed measure would give a self-seeking minority the veto power over the ability of the Senate to discharge its legislative responsibilities and thus represents a "negation of the democratic process." Besides the NCRAC, the other signatory groups are: American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans and Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

U.S. SENATE URGED TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS A.M.G. HAS ENDED DENAZIFICATION IN GERMANY

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- The United States Senate was asked last night to investigate A.M.G. policy in Germany in view of "an astounding announcement" by Gen. Lucius D. Clay, American commander in the European area, that the U.S. occupation authorities have ended all denazification programs. The request to the Senate was made by Dr. Robert S. Marcus, political director of the World Jewish Congress, at a rally here called by the American Jewish Congress to "protest the resurgence of Nazi influence in Germany."

AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP GRANTED TO LUBAVITCHER REBBE; CEREMONY HELD IN HIS RESIDENCE

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- American citizenship was granted today to Rabbi Joseph I. Schneersohn--the Lubavitcher Rebbe--in a ceremony held at his residence in Brooklyn. Federal Court Judge Leo Rayfeil administered the oath of citizenship.

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