

Sunday, March 20, 1949

JTA Daily News Bulletin

Published by JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41ST STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

ISRAEL WILL INSIST THAT BRITISH TROOPS IN TRANSJORDAN BE CONSIDERED PART OF ARAB FORCE

TEL AVIV, March 18. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government will insist on the inclusion of the British forces in Aqaba in the computation of the total strength to be allowed each side under the Israel-Transjordan armistice or their departure from Transjordan territory, Dr. Walter Eytan, Director-General of the Israeli Foreign Office, said today.

The main provision of the armistice now being negotiated on the island of Rhodes, Dr. Eytan explained, is the reduction in the size of the forces both sides will have on their respective armistice lines. In reckoning the size of the forces, he said, Israel will insist that the British be counted in the Transjordan total unless they are withdrawn from the country.

(Reuters reported from London today that a Foreign Office spokesman denied that the movement of British troops to Aqaba in January was in violation of U.N. truce resolutions.)

Dr. Eytan expressed the hope that the Israeli-Lebanese armistice agreement would be signed early next week. He stressed that, to date, Israel had not been officially notified of the Syrian agreement to participate in the armistice talks. The Israeli official denied that in talks a Foreign Ministry representative had had with the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission at Jerusalem earlier this week agreement had been reached on any plans. The meeting, he said, was for information only.

Mark Ethridge, American member of the commission, and most of its personnel were to leave Jerusalem today for Beirut in advance of the meeting there next Monday of the Arab states. The other two members of the commission, now in Paris and Ankara, are expected to proceed directly to Beirut for the meeting.

The commission's sub-committee on the future of Jerusalem yesterday heard Rabbi Meir Berlin, Mizrahi leader, who formerly had supported internationalization of Jerusalem, declare that he now favors inclusion of both the Old City and the modern areas of Jerusalem within the state of Israel.

RHODES SUB-COMMITTEE PREPARES PLAN ON REDUCTION OF ISRAELI AND TRANSJORDAN FORCES

RHODES, March 18. (JTA) -- The sub-committee named by the Israeli and Transjordan armistice negotiators to study the question of reducing the armed forces of both sides today prepared a draft proposal which will be submitted to the military commands of both sides for approval.

All points of difference were also listed and the Jews and Arabs have a completely clear picture of the situation. Bargaining discussions for the prospective armistice agreement are scheduled to begin Monday, by which time replies to the sub-committee's draft for the reduction of armed forces will have been received from the Israeli and Transjordan high commands.

At Lake Success, U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie announced that Syria had accepted an invitation for armistice talks with Israel. He added he had just received a cable from acting mediator Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, confirming Syria's acceptance.

SHARETT OFFERS TO EXCHANGE ARAB REFUGEES FOR JEWS LIVING IN MOSLEM COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON, March 18. (JTA) -- Israel would welcome an exchange of Arab refugees for Jews living in Arab countries, Moshe Sharett, Foreign Minister of Israel, said today at a press conference at the Israeli embassy here.

Earlier in the day, Sharett conferred briefly with Secretary of State Dean Acheson. They will meet again on Monday or Tuesday at which time they will discuss the problem of peace in the Middle East and American-Israeli relations.

He said at the press conference, in answer to a pointed question about Arab refugees being repatriated to Israel, "if you cannot make a homogeneous community, why try to swim against the stream?" The plight of Arab refugees is entirely the fault of the Arab aggressors, he said, adding that there were not 750,000 as generally reported but closer to 500,000.

Sharett made it known that Israel has developed far differently than if there had been no war and exodus of Arabs. Their integration now in the communities of Israel would be "very complicated." He said that Israel has no intention of giving up any territory assigned it by the U.N. partition decision. This statement was in answer to a question concerning the Israeli occupation of the Elath coast of the Gulf of Aqaba. He said that the Elath strip was always considered an integral part of Israel.

Sharett insisted that Israel will exercise full sovereignty in the Jewish portions of Jerusalem. He said that there was some possibility that parts of the Old City would have to be divided into three zones--Christian, Moslem, and Jewish.

The Israeli Foreign Minister told newsmen of the vast expanses of undeveloped territory in Arab states which could be settled with great benefit to Arabs, in response to repeated questions about the fate of Arab refugees. He said that Israel will pay for Arab-owned deserted lands in Israel.

The action of Transjordan in setting up a civil administration in parts of Palestine was called by Sharett a "unilateral action." He said, "I do not think that Transjordan should get this reward for its revolting bombardment of the Holy City."

He reported that negotiations have not yet begun on the frozen Israeli assets held by England, nor on claims or counter claims. The total amount held was stated to be somewhat less than \$320,000,000.

He refused to comment on the possible participation of Israel in a proposed Mediterranean pact. He did emphasize that Israeli foreign policy visualizes alliances within the framework of the U.N. so long as those alliances are not directed against another U.N. member.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES INCREASE IN SUBSIDY TO TRANSJORDAN MILITARY FORCES

LONDON, March 18. (JTA) -- For the second time in three years the British Government announced today its intention to increase its subsidy for the upkeep of the military forces of Transjordan. The financial assistance of \$10,000,000 extended last year to King Abdullah is to be increased to about \$14,000,000 if Parliament approves the Foreign Office estimates.

The British Air Ministry last night issued a statement declaring that the Israeli attack on R.A.F. planes on Jan. 7 was "deliberate and highly-skilled and the Jews had every intention of attacking any aircraft encountered in the area." The statement was issued on the basis of a court inquiry into the shooting down of British military planes over Israeli territory.

3/20/49

U.S. AMBASSADOR SAYS NO JEWS IN IRAQ EXECUTED OR TRIED FOR ZIONIST ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON, March 18. (JTA) -- It has been definitely established to the satisfaction of American Ambassador Edward S. Crocker in Baghdad that there have been no deaths or trials of Jews in Iraq for Zionist activity, a State Department spokesman said today.

The seven sentenced to death and 15 to imprisonment were definitely sentenced in absentia, the State Department added. All these men are now believed in Israel. United States investigation did bring out that one Jew was hanged in Iraq in January for alleged Communist activity, along with two Moslems and one Christian.

(At Lake Success, Economic and Social Council president James Thorn told newsmen that a World Congress petition to that body to take action in the Iraq situation had been submitted too late for the Council, which will adjourn tonight, to consider it. The W.J.C. branded the sentencing of seven Jews to death for alleged pro-Zionist activities "a violation of the (U.N.) Charter and human rights" and asked U.N. action "at the earliest moment.")

NATIONAL U.J.A. CONFERENCE OPENS IN WASHINGTON; BEN GURION, KAPLAN APPEAL FOR AID

WASHINGTON, March 18. (JTA) -- A regime of strict austerity will be introduced in Israel to make possible large scale immigration and agricultural and industrial expansion, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion today declared in a message to the United Jewish Appeal national conference which opens here tomorrow, with 1,200 delegates from all parts of the country in attendance.

Ben Gurion declared that "the country which our victorious army has liberated must speedily be rebuilt to receive all the Jews who wish to and must leave their present abode." He called on the "great Jewish community of America to once again rise to the great occasion and crown with complete success this grand and glorious mission which has befallen our generation."

The urgent need for large scale financial aid from the United States through the U.J.A. was underscored by Eliezer Kaplan, Finance Minister of Israel, in another message to Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the U.J.A. Kaplan disclosed that the Jewish Agency is spending more than a million dollars a month to maintain 40,000 new immigrants in 21 reception camps.

Among speakers scheduled to address sessions are Moshe Sharett, Foreign Minister of Israel, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan, former Gov. Herbert H. Lehman, and Elisha Elath, Israeli Ambassador to the United States.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK ALLOCATES \$5,000,000 OF ISRAELI LOAN FOR LOW COST HOUSING

WASHINGTON, March 18. (JTA) -- The Export-Import Bank today announced a credit of \$5,000,000 for Israel to be used for low cost housing projects on the outskirts of Haifa and Tel Aviv.

The money will be used for purchase in the United States of structural steel, timber, construction equipment, and household fixtures. About 15,000 housing units are expected to be built with the help of the credit. The Israeli Government is going to spend \$15,000,000 additional on the project. The \$5,000,000 is part of the original \$100,000,000 loan.

3/20/49

ISRAELI FOREIGN OFFICE AIDE EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER FATE OF ZIONISM IN RUMANIA

TEL AVIV, March 18. (JTA) -- Grave apprehension concerning the worsening condition of Zionism in Rumania was expressed here today by Dr. Shmuel Friedman, head of the East European division of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

The current trend in Rumania, Dr. Friedman told a press conference, has been highlighted by a recent statement by Rumanian Minister of the Interior Teohari Georgescu that Zionism will shortly be outlawed as an illegal organization. This, the Israeli official pointed out, represents a reversal of the previous favorable Rumanian policy which resulted in the emigration of 13,000 Rumanian Jews to Israel between the conclusion of the war and the end of 1947.

Reviewing the situation regarding the arrest of seven Israeli citizens in Rumania, he said that no charges, except the vague one of plotting against the state, have been lodged against them. He revealed that the Israeli counsel at the Bucharest legation, Moshe Agami, has presented Rumanian Foreign Minister Anna Pauker with a note from Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett, expressing the Israeli Government's position on the matter. Meanwhile, the names of the arrested Israelis were released yesterday. They are: S. Sklar, David Haimovitz, David Herschkovitz, Yitzhak Tessler, Leo Negro, Zindel Rabinovitz and Yishai Stussel.

I.R.O., J.D.C., ITALIAN GOVT. REACH AGREEMENT TO SPEED MOVEMENT OF JEWISH DP'S TO ISRAEL

ROME, March 18. (JTA) -- An agreement to facilitate the movement of Jewish refugees from International Refugee Organization camps in Germany and Austria to Israel was reached here today by the Joint Distribution Committee, the I.R.O. and the Italian Government. Meanwhile, 1,500 Jewish refugees from Austria, Tripoli and Italy today sailed from Naples and Bari for Haifa.

The accord stipulates that approximately 10,000 displaced persons, both Jews and non-Jews, will embark each month for the remainder of this year at Naples for transfer to overseas areas. They will be enabled to make brief stopovers in I.R.O. camps in Naples prior to embarkation. At the present time there is no decision as to the percentage of Israel-bound DP's who will be included in this plan.

Chief reason for this new agreement, it is pointed out here, is that the French Mediterranean ports, which have hitherto borne the brunt of the refugee immigration program, are now greatly congested. It is expected that when the agreement is put into effect the number of Jews in I.R.O. camps in Italy will reach 5,000. The present number of Jewish refugees in camps in this country is approximately 6,000, with 3,300 living in I.R.O. centers, 2,600 in Hachsharah training camps and 176 in Camp Cinecitta, near Rome.

BRITISH HOME SECRETARY URGED TO BAR MOSLEY PARADE TODAY; SAYS HE HAS NO POWER TO ACT

LONDON, March 18. (JTA) -- The British section of the World Jewish Congress today wired James Chuter Ede, British Home Secretary, urging him to bar a scheduled parade by followers of Sir Oswald Mosley through the northeastern section of London on Sunday. Such provocation, the telegram pointed out, will inevitably lead to disturbances "in this mainly Jewish district."

The Home Secretary, however, said he had no power to take action and added it was up to the police commissioner to prevent disorders. Yesterday a delegation composed of the mayors of three London boroughs and the members of Parliament elected from those districts called on Ede and warned him that the Mosley procession might lead to serious disorders. Clashes between the Mosleyites and Jewish war veterans have been frequent in recent months.

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- "Appalling health conditions" among 900,000 Jews in North Africa have necessitated the immediate introduction of expanded medical programs in their behalf, it was reported today by Dr. Jacob J. Golub, chairman of the health committee of the Joint Distribution Committee.

In a report to the J.D.C. executive committee, Dr. Golub declared that "tens of thousands of Jewish men, women and children in the Moslem lands eke out their harsh bitter lives under conditions as wretched and backward as any on the face of the earth." He disclosed that the infant mortality rate in the mellah (Jewish quarter of Casablanca) is one of the highest in the world and that 44 percent of some 3,600 Casablanca school children recently tested for tuberculosis showed positive reactions.

"In Casablanca, a city harboring some 80,000 Jews, only one dispensary is available to the Jewish population," Dr. Golub reported. "Here a single doctor sees 200 children during a three-hour clinic period in the morning and each afternoon 200 boys and girls are treated for favus. In Marrakech one dispensary serves children and expectant mothers, but trachoma, the most virulent disease in the area, is left untreated, although medical science has a positive cure for this infectious disease."

Dr. Golub said that J.D.C. already supports several health centers in North Africa but urged that expanded medical care be undertaken at once "to save a whole generation. A minimum of \$2,000,000 must be spent by the J.D.C. in North Africa and Moslem lands this year in order to provide the medical care and other assistance now desperately needed," he asserted.

BEING OPPOSITION TO JEWISH CLAIMS FOR RESTITUTION EXISTS IN BAVARIA. AUERBACH SAYS

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- Despite the "honest understanding towards Jews" shown by the Bavarian provincial government--of which he is a member in charge of restitution--strong opposition to the claims of Jews exists in the state, Dr. Philip Auerbach, German Jewish leader who is now in the United States, reported at a meeting of American residents who were formerly concentration camp inmates.

Criticizing a recent statement by Gen. Lucius D. Clay, U.S. commander in Europe, that Nazism is dead in Germany, Dr. Auerbach asserted that the only thing which is dead is the denazification program, under which he said almost all the accused are protected from their just punishment. He pointed out that with the exception of Bavaria, all German provinces continue to pay pensions to former Nazis who were on the payroll of the German Government.

EXHIBITION OF ARTICLES PRODUCED BY ORT STUDENTS IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA OPENS IN MUNICH

MUNICH, March 18. (JTA) -- An exhibition of more than 4,000 articles produced by ORT students in Germany and Austria opened here last night with representatives of the A.M.G., the Bavarian provincial government, the International Refugee Organization and voluntary relief agencies in attendance.

Bavarian officials expressed interest in having ORT textbooks adapted for use in local German schools. The ORT was invited by the A.M.G. authorities in Bavaria to have the exhibit shown throughout Germany.

RADIO STATION OWNER ACCUSED OF SLANTING NEWS BROADCASTS TO RETIRE FROM RADIO BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, March 18. (JTA) -- G.A. Richards, owner of radio station KMPC, Los Angeles, who has been accused of ordering anti-Semitism injected in KMPC news broadcasts, will retire from the radio business, the Federal Communications Commission announced today. Richards is also owner of stations in Detroit and Cleveland.

3/20/49

MEXICAN JEWRY DECIDES TO LAUNCH UNITED FUND-RAISING DRIVE; GOAL FOR 1949 IS \$1,400,000

MEXICO CITY, March 18. (JTA) -- A decision to launch a united fund-raising campaign for Israel and other Jewish needs was adopted here today with an announced goal of 10,000,000 pesos (\$1,400,000). Previously it was announced that separate drives would be conducted by the various Zionist and other Jewish organizations in Mexico.

Chaim Greenberg, member of the executive of the Jewish Agency, participated in the negotiations which led to the proclamation of the united campaign, although he originally came here to help launch separate fund-raising efforts in behalf of Israel and the Jewish national funds. The decision to launch a single drive in Mexico this year was hailed by the local Jewish press, which earlier had expressed fears that separate campaigns would result in decreased income for Jewish institutions here.

LEADING U.N. DELEGATES ATTEND FIRST OFFICIAL RECEPTION TENDERED BY ISRAELI MISSION

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- Leading delegates to the United Nations last night attended a reception tendered by Aubrey S. Eban, chief Israeli delegate to the U.N. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett was also present at the reception, which was held at the Israeli Consulate here.

The U.S. delegation to the U.N. was represented by Sen. Warren Austin and John Foster Dulles. This was the first official reception given by the Israeli mission to the United Nations for members of the Security Council and other U.N. bodies. British representatives to Lake Success were among those present.

EDDIE JACOBSON, FORMER PARTNER OF PRESIDENT TRUMAN, LEAVES FOR MONTH'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- Eddie Jacobson, former haberdashery partner of President Truman, left for Israel yesterday for a month's visit to the Jewish state. He will report to the White House on his observations upon his return. His wife, Eluma, accompanied him.

Although he is not travelling to Israel in any official capacity, it is understood here that he is in effect a personal emissary of the President and will visit Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of Israel, as well as other leading members of the government. Prior to his departure, Jacobson conferred with Israeli officials here and in Washington.

REP. KLEIN INTRODUCES BILL INTO CONGRESS TO BAR DISCRIMINATION IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, March 18. (JTA) -- A bill to curb religious and racial discrimination in the District of Columbia was introduced in the House of Representatives yesterday by Rep. Arthur G. Klein. The measure would end discrimination by rental agents, hotels, restaurants, and all commercial establishments, except private clubs.

SPRINGFIELD RABBI APPOINTED JEWISH RELIGIOUS ADVISOR TO U.S. MILITARY GOVT. IN GERMANY

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- The appointment of Rabbi Isaac Klein, of Springfield, Mass., as Jewish religious advisor to the American Military Government in Germany was announced today by Dr. Robert Gordis, president of the Synagogue Council of America. Rabbi Klein has been granted a leave of absence from his congregation and will bear the simulated rank of Brigadier General. He will help in the religious and cultural reestablishment of permanent Jewish communities in Germany.