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JTA

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LAST MINUTE NEWSARMISTICE PACT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND LEBANON INITIALED; WILL BE SIGNED WEDNESDAY

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- An armistice agreement between Lebanon and Israel was initialed at Ras el Nakura this evening, it was announced here. The formal signing of the pact will take place Wednesday morning in the Lebanese-controlled customs house in the border town.

It is understood that the agreement restores the Palestine-Lebanese frontiers as set with the Palestine Mandate Government, leaving no Lebanese territory in Israeli hands. It is reported that an understanding concerning the Syrian force at Mishmar Hayarden--which can only be supplied through Lebanese territory--was reached, although there was no formal agreement on that point. An exchange of prisoners of war is scheduled to begin Thursday.

At the conclusion of the initialing ceremony, Gen. William Riley, military aide to U.N. mediator Ralph J. Bunche, declared that the successful conclusion of these negotiations marked an important advance in the direction of a permanent peace between the two nations.

SYRIAN-ISRAELI ARMISTICE TALKS ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE SET TODAY; BUNCHE SEES SYRIAN ENVOY

RHODES, March 20. (JTA) -- The date and place of meeting of Syrian and Israeli negotiators for an armistice will be set tomorrow or within the next few days, it was reliably learned here today after the departure of Dr. Farid Zein ed Din, Secretary-General of the Syrian Foreign Office, who returned to Damascus today.

It was reported that the Syrian brought his government's official agreement to negotiate and also had the power to set the time and place of the parley. After telephoning Lake Success, U.N. mediator Ralph J. Bunche consulted with Reuven Shiloah, head of the Israeli mission here. Shiloah has since communicated with Tel Aviv.

Meanwhile, resumption of the talks between Israel and Transjordan is expected tomorrow after representatives of each of the delegations returns from his respective capital with fresh instructions. Leaving the question of negotiations with the Iraqis to one side, Israeli representatives here have told Dr. Bunche that they cannot agree to the Transjordanians taking over the "triangle" area opposite Tel Aviv--now held by the Iraqis. Although Dr. Bunche and the Jews have discussed the problem repeatedly, no agreement on this issue has been reached.

(In London this week-end, a Foreign Office spokesman declared that British troops in Transjordan would remain there as long as there appeared to be any need for them under the Anglo-Transjordan Treaty. He was commenting on a statement by Dr. Walter Eytan, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, that Israel will demand that either British troops be withdrawn from Transjordan or be counted in the Arab total in deciding the size of the force each state may keep on the armistice lines.)

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1949 U.J.A. CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED AT WASHINGTON PARLEY WITH \$27,000,000 IN INITIAL GIFTS

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA) -- The 1949 United Jewish Appeal campaign for \$250,000,000 for local and overseas needs was launched here this week-end at the two-day National Rededication Conference of the U.J.A. by 1,200 Jewish community leaders from all parts of the country who presented Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the U.J.A., with nearly \$27,000,000 in cash to get the campaign off to a flying start.

The assembled community leaders cheered as Moshe Sheratt, Israel's Foreign Minister, declared that the Jews of Israel will provide for the defense of their state, but added that the Jews outside Israel, particularly those in the United States, must meet the bill for immigration. Pointing out that the Israelis fought and died not only for statehood, but also to open the doors of the country to immigration of Jewish refugees, Sheratt stressed:

"But the gates opened and kept open at the cost of blood can be of no avail for the admission of people if on arrival they are unable to settle and become productive. Here is where the collective responsibility of the entire Jewish people must come into play. If they share in the glory of Israel, they must share in its travail."

In the ten months that have passed since the proclamation, 170,000 immigrants came in, the Israeli Foreign Minister said. The monthly average for the last five months was 24,000. It is estimated that when Israel celebrates her first anniversary, the number of newcomers will total 200,000 or exceed that many, he said, adding that this figure "is equivalent to an annual total of 44 million immigrants to the United States."

Cabinet Member Praises Israeli Democracy, Agricultural Planning

Israel has not disappointed those who gave it encouragement and help, Charles F. Brannan, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, told the U.J.A. delegates. "The fact that three Arabs were seated in the parliament of Israel is to me a sign of that more perfect democracy for which we all strive, and a clear-cut indication that Israel intends to pursue a course of conduct which shall make her a bastion of freedom and liberty in the Middle East," he said. "I believe Israel desires peace, and the series of negotiations currently being conducted with the various Arab states is a proof of that desire." The Secretary of Agriculture also said that he was particularly pleased by the sound agricultural planning in Israel.

Today's Gifts Have Averted Resettlement Crisis in Israel, Morgenthau Says

Commenting on today's cash gifts--which amounted to more than ten percent of the national goal for this year--Morgenthau declared: "I am happy to say that this extraordinary action on the part of the Jewish communities has averted a serious crisis in the resettlement of homeless Jews in Israel." Yesterday, the U.J.A. general chairman warned that a lack of funds has created a desperate situation in Israel where "the victory won on the field of battle may be lost in the immigrant reception camps."

He emphasized that unless the generosity of American Jews makes possible the speedy absorption of 250,000 Jewish refugees who will come to the Jewish state this year, the tragic existence of DP camp life will be transplanted to Israel. Unless the

3/21/49

necessary aid from America arrives, he declared, "the land of promise will become the land of disillusionment." Fifty thousand Jewish refugees are now in temporary reception camps and 16,000 of them are living in tents, Morgenthau revealed.

Message from Weizmann Stresses Meaning of Four Freedoms to Israel

In a message to the conference, President Weizmann of Israel said that the late President Roosevelt's Four Freedoms have a special meaning to the people of Israel. He assured the delegates that Israel can guarantee the newly arriving immigrants that they will have freedom from fear, but, the message added, the Jews of America must, through their support of the U.J.A., provide funds for freedom from want.

The message also said: "The financial resources of Israel have been strained to the utmost by the war of defense which was forced upon us. It has never before been written in history that a people was called upon to make an effort of such tremendous complexity under conditions like these. We can stand up to our great task only if Jews throughout the world give us their maximum support."

A quarter of a million immigrants in 1949 will do more to insure the security of Israel than a large army, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, acting chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, said. Describing Israel as a "Jewish island in an Arab sea," Dr. Goldmann called on American Jewry to expand its fund-raising machinery for Israel through the U.J.A. until such time as the independence of Israel has been secured beyond the shadow of a doubt "and until such time that every Jew anywhere in the world who wants to live in Israel has been helped to do so."

"Victories are often dangerous in that they induce the victorious group to over-optimism, which causes a psychological let down, Dr. Goldmann said. "Many nations have lost in peace what they gained in war because of their psychologically premature demobilization. The state of Israel in its nine months of existence has performed miracles, but it has much to accomplish in every phase of its existence before all immediate dangers will have been removed and all difficulties overcome."

Israeli Ambassador to Washington Eliahu Elath, in an address to the conference, insisted that "the responsibility that you shoulder now is in many respects even greater than that of the crucial years preceding our rebirth as a nation." He continued: "The contributions that you are asked to make are not to help maintain the state of Israel or its administration. These needs are covered by our own taxpayers, who in addition to their lives, are ready to give a large measure of their material wealth. It is the additional responsibilities that we have to carry in new construction, in new settlements for our returning brethren, that cannot be met solely by taxes and the trade activities of our country which has had, from its inception, to fight a war of life and death."

Immigration Wave Taxing J.D.C. Facilities, Warburg Declares

Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, predicted that if adequate funds are available some 40 DP camps in Europe housing thousands of Jews will be closed down this year. He asserted that the present rate of refugee immigration from Europe to Israel was taxing the J.D.C. facilities to the point of breakdown. As an illustration of this point, he revealed that there are some 9,000 Jews waiting for transportation from Marseilles to Israel who are living in camps intended for 3,000-4,000 persons.

Dr. Morris Rothenberg, acting national chairman of the United Palestine Appeal and a national chairman of the U.J.A., said that there is a "false belief that

3/21/49

task is done." He warned that Israel still has to settle the war and face great economic problems.

William Rosenwald, president of the United Service for New Americans, reported that the United States Displaced Persons Commission is anticipating an influx of between 10,000 and 12,000 DP's per month during the coming summer. Rosenwald said that in addition to providing for the newcomers who enter the United States this year his organization must continue to provide assistance to the 75,000 immigrants already in the country who need USMA aid.

Granovsky, Eshkol Report on Agricultural Resettlement Program

Dr. Abraham Granovsky, world president of the Jewish National Fund, declared that a key factor in the development of Israel is the establishment of a series of border settlements which will provide security for the country without the necessity for the maintenance of a large standing army. At the same time, he pointed out, such settlements will absorb tens of thousands of new immigrants.

Levi Eshkol, chief of the agricultural settlement department of the Jewish Agency, who arrived in the United States last week to assist in the U.J.A. campaign, disclosed that 60 new settlements have been established in Israel in the past ten months, and that present plans call for the establishment of another 100 in the coming 9 months.

Yacov Zerubavel, chief of the Middle East department of the Jewish Agency, urged that "Jews in some Moslem lands are threatened with death, or imprisonment and confiscation of their property unless they can flee to Israel."

Former Gov. Herbert H. Lehman said that "unhappy refugees in certain European countries have a very limited time in which to find a new home in Israel." He cited the political situation in North Africa and Arab states. "The schedule of emigration into Israel is in truth an urgent timetable of survival," he added.

The existence of Israel will dissipate anti-Semitism in the United States, James G. McDonald, American Ambassador to Israel, predicted in a message from Tel Aviv. Israel will not only make secure the future of your brethren, it will also help to save us other Americans from the grievous sin of brute prejudice. Israel will help us all, Jews and Christians, to be better Americans," the message said.

Neumann Pledges Support of American Zionists to U.J.A. Drive

In a message to the conference, to which he had been invited but which he could not attend because of prior engagements, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, stated that he had asked Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the U.S.A. administrative council, to represent the organization, and added: "I trust that the rededication conference of the United Jewish Appeal will succeed in its high purpose. The task laid upon us all in this critical year is greater and more compelling than ever before and must command the support and devotion of all sections of American Jewry. American Zionists will of course do their duty in these days of fulfillment as they have done throughout the long years of heartbreak and struggle."

Five trains--to be known as "U.J.A. Caravans of Hope"--will be dispatched on April 3 to 150 communities throughout America as spearheads of the fund-raising campaign, it was announced at the closing session this afternoon. A special car of each train will carry Israeli officials, U.J.A. workers, and others who will help carry the drive into the homes of the nation. Each car is planned to be a sort of Jewish combination of the Freedom and Friendship Trains. The caravans will be on tour for three weeks.

3/21/49

18 ARRESTED, 7 INJURED WHEN MOSLEYITES ATTEMPT TO PARADE THROUGH JEWISH AREA OF LONDON

LONDON, March 20. (JTA) -- Eighteen persons were arrested today and at least seven policemen were injured in clashes between Mosleyites who paraded through the Jewish-populated East End of London and anti-fascists who attempted to disrupt the parade.

The worst clash occurred outside of Tottenham Town Hall where some 2,000 persons gathered to halt the fascists from holding a public meeting. Hundreds of police, mounted and on foot, finally succeeded in cordoning off the fascists and dispersing all other demonstrators.

SEVEN ISRAELIS ARRESTED BY RUMANIAN GOVT. WILL BE RELEASED SHORTLY, MINISTER ANNOUNCES

BUCHAREST, March 20. (JTA) -- Anna Pauker, Rumanian Foreign Minister, today informed Reuven Rubin, Israeli Minister to Rumania, that seven Israeli citizens arrested a number of weeks ago on charges of interfering in Rumanian internal affairs would be released within the next four days.

Mme. Pauker informed Minister Rubin of this decision during an audience with him which also dealt with other Israeli and Rumanian problems. Last week the legation here forwarded to Mme. Pauker a note from Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Sheratt on the arrest of the seven Israelis.

GEN. CLAY TURNS DOWN DRAFT INDEMNIFICATION PROPOSAL BECAUSE IT LACKS PROVISION FOR DP'S

FRANKFURT, March 20. (JTA) -- A draft proposal of a plan to provide indemnification for victims of Nazism submitted by a United States zonal council of German provincial leaders was rejected today by General Lucius Clay, Commander of the American occupation forces, it was learned here. The General's decision, welcomed by Jewish leaders, was based on the fact that the plan did not include DP's.

In the meantime, at a conference in Heidelberg of leading Jewish organizations called by Harry Greenstein, Gen. Clay's Jewish adviser, the main issues discussed were the future of the Jewish communities in Germany, emigration and the rising wave of anti-Semitism. The delegates to the conference estimated that 50,000 Jews had emigrated from the American zone while in the British sector there are still some 10,000 Jewish displaced persons.

CUBA AND FINLAND GRANT ISRAEL DE JURE RECOGNITION; EXTENDED DE FACTO STATUS PREVIOUSLY

HAVANA, March 20. (JTA) -- The Cuban Government has extended de jure recognition to the state of Israel, it was announced here this week-end by the Ministry of State. Cuba granted de facto recognition to Israel in January.

HELSINKI, March 20. (JTA) -- Full de jure recognition was given to the state of Israel today by Finland. De facto recognition was granted last June.

3,000 GREEK JEWS GATHER TO WITNESS RAISING OF FLAG OVER ISRAELI CONSULATE IN ATHENS

ATHENS, March 20. (JTA) -- Three thousand Greek Jews today witnessed the raising of the Israeli standard over the Israeli consulate here by a Jewish Boy scout and a girl survivor of the Oswiecim death camp. The flag-raising ceremony was marked by an ovation on the part of the spectators and the singing of Jewish songs. The ceremony ended with special prayers recited by the Deputy Chief Rabbi of Athens.

ISRAEL WILL PAY DIVIDENDS ON U.S. INVESTMENTS IN DOLLARS, JEWISH AGENCY ECONOMIST SAYS

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- Profits and dividends from American investments in Israel will be paid in dollar currency if the original investment was made in dollars or in machinery and equipment originating in the U.S., Robert R. Nathan, director of the economic department of the Jewish Agency, announced here today.

Nathan pointed out that this policy was in line with the Israeli Government's announced intention to extend all possible assistance and encouragement to the investment of American capital in Israel. The Israeli Government has set up a joint committee representing the Treasury and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Supply, to assist and grant licenses to investors who desire to transfer capital or to establish businesses in Israel, he said.

CATHOLIC PROFESSORS ATTACK DR. WISE'S CHARGE THAT LARGEST CHRISTIAN CHURCH "IS FOR WAR"

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 20. (JTA) -- A statement by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, veteran Jewish leader and Rabbi of the Free Synagogue that "the largest of Christian churches is unequivocally for war," was denounced here today as "false and malicious" by 10 professors at the Catholic University of America. In a statement issued through the university's public relations bureau, the professors called the "attention of all Americans, Jewish, Christian and others...to the false and malicious character of the statement of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise upon the Catholic Church and war."

Dr. Wise made his statement in a sermon from his pulpit last Friday night. The subject of his sermon, a protest over the censorship executed over spiritual leaders by lay boards of directors, dealt specifically with the ouster of two Protestant clergymen from the Holy Trinity Church of Brooklyn for the fact that one was connected with the Council for American-Soviet Friendship. Dr. Wise stated that the two clergymen see what "I clearly and sorrowfully see--that the largest of Christian churches is unequivocally for war; that it is using its great influence to war upon the atheism--I do not say godlessness,--of the Soviet regime."

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS LEADER ASKS AUSTRIAN GOVT. TO BAN ANTI-SEMITIC NEWSPAPERS

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- The Austrian Government was urged today to "take all necessary steps under the Austrian constitution and laws" to ban "from circulation publications devoted to the spreading of racial and religious hatred," by Dr. Robert S. Marcus, political director of the World Jewish Congress.

In a letter to Dr. Ludwig von Kleinwachter, Austrian Minister to the United States, Dr. Marcus called attention to two anti-Semitic publications, Die Neue Front, published in Salzburg, and Alpenrose, published in Graz. Pointing out that "anti-Semitism was utilized to foment unrest and to destroy the fabric of the Austrian state" in the past, Dr. Marcus' letter expressed the concern of the World Jewish Congress "with the reappearance of anti-Semitism in the Austrian press."

SCIENTISTS HONOR ALBERT EINSTEIN AT SYMPOSIUM ARRANGED TO MARK HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY

PRINCETON, N.J., March 20. (JTA) -- Tribute was paid here today to Dr. Albert Einstein by more than 300 leaders in the fields of physics, astronomy, mathematics and cosmology at a symposium on Dr. Einstein's contributions to contemporary science. The symposium was arranged in celebration of Dr. Einstein's seventieth birthday anniversary which occurred last Monday.

The symposium was held under the auspices of Princeton University and the Institute for Advanced Study here, of which Dr. Einstein is a member. Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the Institute, in his opening remarks, referred to the septuagenarian physicist as "the greatest member of our brotherhood."

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